



Thursday, July 16, 2015

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BUSINESS Salute to women's struggle for fair pay UB PLA DITCH

PART of Cradley Heath High Street

will be closed for almost two months

to allow for £100,000 gas works to be carried out.
Shop owners have reacted angrily

to the news that a stretch of the busy road, between St Anne's Road and road, between St Anne's Road and the West Bromwich Building Society, will be shut to drivers from August 19. They say the closure will have a major impact on trade and claim they were not told about the work until

were not told about the work until very recently.

Roy Chumber, owner of Cradley Heath DIY, said: "I have been here 30 years. I am angry because they should notify us before agreeing to the repairs. I pay nearly £900 each month in rent. This will have a huge impact on us. A lot of my trade is people that drive up and carry a lot of

impact on us. A lot of my trade is people that drive up and carry a lot of heavy items out to their car."
Rajesh Sethi, manager of the Ransons discount store, added: "This is absolutely going to have a great impact on the shops in this area."
The closure, which will be in place until October 10, is one of four in the town centre to run consecutively while National Grid digs up the road to replace a gas main, which is de-

PLANS for an enterprise zone beside a stretch of the M5 in Halesowen have been dropped in what is being hailed as a victory for 'people power'.

Dudley Council was exploring the possibility of transforming land near junction 3 of the motorway, near Halesowen, into a hub for busi-

nesses.

But the proposals faced a fierce backlash from campaigners who feared part of the green

belt would be swallowed up.

At a meeting of Dudley Council on Monday it was agreed to scrap the plans which had sought to create around 6,000 jobs.

Council leader Pete Lowe, said: "Given the clear level of concern over the junction

PUPILS are celebrating after a new

Constructed of wooden beams and

Happy - James Morris MP

of High Street playground

3 proposals I have decided to recommend **Traders angry** | Pupils' joy over closure at new £27k

a proposals I nave decided to recommend to the council that the proposed feasibility exercise be removed fully." He continued: "I will advise instead we continue work to deliver enterprise zones in Brierley Hill and elsewhere as promised by the Chancellor in the run up the elec-tion, to build on the work this council has done at the Business Investment Zone at The Waterfront.

"This is a clear indication that this coun-cil will listen to the wishes of the communi-

ties we represent.

PUPILS are celebrating after a new £27,000 playground was installed at a Black Country school.

New equipment has been installed at Hurst Green Primary, in Halesowen, funded by a generous donation from the school's Parent-Teacher Association, supplemented by a Big Lottery Fund grant and cash from the school coffers.

Constructed of wooden beams and ties we represent."

An online petition called Save Halesowen's Countryside had been signed by 3,532
people and a further petition set up by
Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James
Morris, had gathered 937 signatures.

Abbey

Conservative MP Mr Morris hailed the council's U-turn a victory for 'people power'. He said: "I am relieved and happy to hear that Dudley Council have finally caved in on their plans to look at an industrial park on Halesowen's greenbelt.

"From the very beginning these plans were ill-thought out and plain daft."
Fears surrounding the proposals included the potential impact on the Halesowen Abbey ruins, which are near the development site which borders Manor Way to the north and the motorway to the east.

Mick Freer, secretary of the Hales Owen Abbey Trust, said: "All I can say is that the people who put this forward must have been completely oblivious to what they were doing. It would have decimated beautiful historic countryside.

"Alot of people put an enormous amount of effort into opposing the proposals and we're both delighted and relieved. We had people from other countries signing the petition." and cash from the school cofters.

Constructed of wooden beams and ropes the climbing frames are suitable for use by youngsters under the age of eight and will also be available for community groups to use.

Julia Bathurst, headteacher at the Narrow Lane school said: "The new equipment means we have extra climbing space for Key Stage One pupils which they haven't had before. They can use it for balancing and climbing and it will increase the amount of physical activities they are able to do.

"It's also something for the community to use. We've invited the Brownies to use it, and also Jack in the Box Playgroup, which is next to the school."

Hurst Green's PTA raised £9,000, the Big Lottery fund put forward

the Big Lottery fund put forward to replace a gas main, which is described as essential work.

That's tree is 1111 and 25,000 we fee both telegible to make 25,000 from other countries signing the pescribed as essential work.



Fizzog actors Deb Nicholls, Sue Hawkins and Jacky Fellows, are pictured at the Mary Macarthur statue erected in memory of the strikers and their leader

Black Country Festival

THOUSANDS of people turned out to enjoy the Women's Chainmakers' Festival in Cradley Heath.
Comedy and acting troupe The Fizzogs were among the performers to take part on the event which was part of the Black Country Festival. It was staged successfully in the town's High Street after being held

town's High Street after being held at other locations in recent years. Festivities included a parade, plays, speeches and concerts hon-ouring the women of Cradley Heath who went on strike for better pay and conditions in 1910.

Back then there were 3,500 chain makers working in small shops in the Cradley and Cradley Heath district. Two thirds of them were

The Trade Union Congress organised the festival which had previously been based at the Black Country Living Museum and Bearmann Bank

Country Living Museum and Bearmore Park.

It was part of a packed programme of activities and events held around Black Country Day on Tuesday. Swathes of visitors soaked up the sun for the flagship event of the Black Country Festival in Dudley's Stone Street Square on Saturday. There were musicians, dass-blowers dancers and the arglass-blowers, dancers and the ar-ea's own superhero Black Country

Mon to put people in carnival mood.

For more on the Black Country
Festival see pages 16 and 17, and
to read about the flag controversy see page 4

GARDEN

Open for woodland walk with waterfall

A COUPLE from Halesowen are opening

Ron and Anne Kerr, who live at 20 Wax-land Road, will be welcoming visitors this Sunday to raise funds for Alzheimer's So-

cliety. The three-tiered garden features a waterfall which cascades over rocks and into ponds set in a woodland area. The couple have been opening their garden to the public since 2003 for charitable causes. The entrance fee is £3 per adult and refreshments cleate and beneated in the public since the couple of the couple o ments, plants and homemade iams will be on sale at the event from 1 to 5pm.

FATALITY

Funeral date for Russells Hall nurse

THE funeral of Russells Hall Hospital

THE funeral of Russells Hall Hospital nurse killed when thrown from his motorbike while on his way to work will take place on Tuesday, July 21.
Christian Hugh Davies – known as Hugh – died at the scene of the accident on Pedmore Road, Brierley Hill.
The funeral of the 50-year-old from Amblecote is at St Mark's Church, Pensnett, from 1.15pm. Donations will be collected for Holt-Oram Syndrome Support Group and British Motorcycle Support Group and British Motorcycle Federation Foundation.

FESTIVAL

Mic sweet music at free family event

ALL the family are welcome at the free Brickhouse and Cradley Heath Summer

Brickhouse and Cradley Heath Summer Festival on Sunday.

This year's festival will be held on the Moor Lane Green Space, Moor Lane, Row-ley Regis from noon to 5pm. Attractions include a children's funfair, Sandwell Youth

clude a children's funfair, Sandwell Youth Bus and displays and games provided by Sandwell Leisure Trust. There will be a car boot sale and stalls too. There will be music from bands and even the chance to appear yourself at an 'open mic' event. To take part contact Will Walker on 07940 471 584 or email will walk01@hotmail.co.uk

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Murder of a family man is admitted

A 33-year-old man has admitted murdering a father whose body was found dering a father whose body was found in the basement of a Rowley Regis home on New Year's Day.

Stuart Millership has also apologised for the lies he told about the crime and the anguish caused to the family of victim M. Politi Sinch

the anguish caused to the family of vic-tim Mr Baljit Singh.

Mr Singh, from Meadow Road, Edg-baston disappeared on December 23 last year after reportedly leaving his home to collect a birthday cake for his son.

The 50-year-old's body was found by police at around 9am on January 1 at a house in Beeches Road, Rowley Regis,

the address where Millership lived. A post-mortem examination revealed Mr Singh died from head injuries and knife

Singh died from head injuries and knife wound to the neck.

Millership pleaded guilty to the murder when he appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week. He had earlier denied the offence and a trial had been due to start. As a result, a further

been due to start. As a result, a further hearing was due to take place this week. Mr Rex Tedd QC, who leads the de-fence legal team, read just one para-graph from the basis of Millership's guilty plea to the court. It stated: "I am truly sorry for the death of Baljit Singh

and the anguish that this has caused his and the anguish that this has caused his family, particularly his wife and son. I wish to apologise for my part in this of-fence and for my earlier failures to tell the truth."

Millership, of Beeches Road, was ar-

Minersinp, or becenes road, was arrested at an address in Kingswinford the day before the body was found, on suspicion of stealing Mr Singh's Range Rover. He was later charged with murder. He appeared in court wearing an open neck white shirt and black trousers. He was remanded in custody until this work whom there was due to be few

week, when there was due to be a fur-

Garden restoration costs climb to £1m

ed 'secret garden' in Halesowen is now estimated to be going to cost £1 million.

Killer Stuart Millership

Bosses seeking Lotto funding for the overhaul of the hidden gem at The Leasowes, has captured the public's imagination with more than 80 people

volunteering to help.

Donations totalling around £10,000 have also been gratefully received by Halesowen Abbey Trust, which bought the walled garden last year.

den last year.

Trust spokesman Mick Freer said: "Up to now we have been meeting obstacles as they arise and getting donations in to cover individual bits of work.

"For example if we have needed a skip we have put out a call and got the money in. We have just about been keeping pace with what has been required."

But while initial estimates put the cost of the project at £500,000, that has now doubled to £1m.

bled to £1m.
Plans for a Victorian-style garden house alone could cost £200,000 and it is hoped lottery funding would also help with building a visitor centre including a cafe.
Mr Freer still hopes a business or individual will come forward to sponsor the restoration

restoration.

He added: "The idea would be for the vis-

itor centre to be a place where people come to find out about other facilities in the area and how they can make the most of the Coombeswood Green Wedge.

Splendid

"We want people to have the 'wow' factor and for them to feel like they are being taken into the eighteenth and nineteenth century when they visit the garden. It is going to be rather splendid."

The most recent stage of the painstaking restoration to get under way is work to create an orchard.

Volunteers are now being invited to sponsor a tree with up to 60 set to be planted.

sor a tree with up to 60 set to be planted.

Mr Freer said the team had also been taking down old garden houses and selling off aluminium to help with the expense.

The scheme involves restoring the garden to its 19th century glory. It was added to the mansion in 1776 to feed the family and servants of the owner Edward Horn

Inspiring engineers of tomorrow



Pupils experience manufacturing, top, Abdullah Ali and Hannah Frisby with Daniel Forest and Matthew Read

THE Black Country Living Muse-um has opened its doors to the po-tential engineers of tomorrow at its Meet the Manufacturers event.

The event gave primary school pupils the opportunity to meet manufacturing and engineering companies to give them an insight into the industry.

Mel Weatherley, head of learning at the museum, said: "It is really inspiring for children to come and see what is right here in the Black Country. It's all about showing

children the vast industry we have and encouraging them to get into it in the future."

A shuttle bus ran to manufac-A shuttle bus ran to manufac-turing firm Thomas Dudley, on the Birmingham New Road, to show the difference in technology past and present. Ten schools vis-ited the museum during the event earlier this month and were given guided tours taking in 300 years of Black Country industry.

Kevin Brown, a teacher at Our Lady and St Kenelm School, Hale-

sowen said: "It's been a wonderful event. It's great for the children to see what the technology does."

FabFoundation UK had a 3D printer on display and Rimstock, leading alloy manufacturers based in West Bromwich, also brought along a replica Honda racing car.

Richard Tate-Harris, Market-ing at Rimstock, said: "To get the kids involved has been amazing. It's showing how here in the Black Country we can innovate and create anything."

Borough's economy lags behind neighbours

DUDLEY'S economy is the worst per-forming in the Black Country and one of the worst in the country, new figures

The borough's year-on-year growth to the end of March was just 0.4 per cent. It falls behind the regional average of 2.2 per cent and was outperformed by neighbouring Black Country boroughs, which were also outpacing Birmingham.

Black Country Chamber of Commerce

Black Country Chamber of Commerce president Ninder Johal said the issue provides a 'challenge' for Dudley.

"This figure shows that we need to work harder in Dudley," he said. "People should use this as a challenge. Dudley will benefit from the growth of the other three Black Country boroughs. Each particular borough is different and accuracy and the same rough state.

Each particular borough is different and you wouldn't expect the same growth at the same time of the year."

Worcestershire was among top performing areas with growth of 3.4 per cent. The Royal Bank of Scotland's Regional Growth Tracker shows Staffordgional Growth Tracker shows Stafford-shire's economy grew by 2.4 per cent in the 12 months up to March this year. Wolverhampton and Sandwell were close behind on 2.1 per cent, and both outper-formed Birmingham, which managed a 1.9 per cent increase. Walsall's growth rate was 1.8 per cent. But bottom of the list for the West Midlands is Dudley. Dudley Council has ambitious projects aimed at turning the borough around, such as the ongoing revamp of the town centre, although a 250 million regener-ation project to transform land in Hale-

ation project to transform land in Hale-sowen beside the M5 is being dropped.

Council service under scrutiny

AN education minister has said the Government could intervene in the running of children's services in Sandwell after ey were again judged to be inadequate Ofsted.

they were again judged to be madequate by Ofsted.

Minister for Schools Edward Timpson suggested the Government was prepared to step in and said the council had been given enough time.

Mr Timpson was responding to a question in Parliament from Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris over children's services in Sandwell.

The minister said the level of their involvement would depend on the scale of the issues identified by Ofsted and the capacity of the authority to address them. He added: "Sandwell has had sufficient time to make the necessary improvements."

Police speed check on 150 motorists

MORE than 150 cars were checked during a speeding crackdown in Oldbury. A team from Sandwell Police and the council hit the streets including Lang-ley High Street. A total of 159 cars were screened during Monday's check but none were caught driving over the limit.

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Taxi drivers saying car tests need to change

ing a change to rules which mean they have to fork out up to £500 in

ing a change to ruies which mean they have to fork out up to £500 in vehicle tests every year.

Current policies are out-dated and hitting drivers in the pocket, according to members of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association.

Taxi owners have to pay £230 for their vehicle test and licence application every year but drivers of older cars, over six years old, face additional vehicle tests during the year.

Rules limiting the colour of taxis to white were scrapped last year following a campaign by cabbie, including 'slow drives' in Dudley town centre.

The association says the change has allowed more of its members to change their cars meaning there are less older vehicles on the roads.

But under current rules, cars aged between six and eight years face two

between six and eight years face two tests a year and those over eight need a test every four months. Additional tests can cost £153.40 under current guidelines.

Committee

Association chairman Shaz Saleem said: "The policy is outdated now. This policy should change as it is hitting people in the pocket."

New proposals which will go before the council's taxi committee saying vehicles between six and 10 years old

venicies between six and 10 years old should be subject to six-monthly tests. Vehicles 10 years old and above would still receive four month tests. It was due to be discussed at a meet-ing this week.

Petition to protect pub gets support

ALMOST 400 people have signed a petition against plans to demolish a Halesowen pub and replace it with a convenience store

New River Retail is proposing to build a Co-op store on the site of the Maypole, Bassnage Road, Halesowen.

A campaign has been launched to save the pub with supporter fighting to secure 'asset of community value' status for the site. This will give it greater protection from developers.

More than 390 people have so far backed the online petition against the convenience store proposals. The planning application has been lodged with Dudley Council.

The pub was in a portfolio of 200 pubs sold to New River Retail by Marston's in 2013.

Homes scheme for old pub site

A DEVELOPMENT of houses and apartments is proposed for the site of a former Oldbury pub, under new plans. Eleven homes would be built where The Bridge pub once stood in Station Road if permission is granted.

Revived carnival to become regular event



progress for next year's Halesowen Carnival following the resounding success of this year's event on July 4. A provisional date of July 9 has been set for 2016 with hopes of securing more funding to make it even bigger.

The carnival, which was reinstated after almost 30 years, almost didn't go ahead when its traditional venue, at Huntingtree Park, was deemed un-suitable by Dudley Council four weeks before the big day. But new venue Highfield Park, considered more able

to cope with neavy venicies, saw thou-sands turn out in the sunshine. Simon Walker, organiser, said: "It was a fantastic day and was lovely to see so many people from different generations smiling and enjoying themselves.
"We had between two to three

we had between two to three thousand people turn out and the feedback and pictures I have received from Facebook has been incredible.

"Ever since the carnival finished in 1986 it was my ambition to bring it back — even if it has been touch and

came and were treated like VIPs, they had a fantastic time. We had so many

nad a fantastic time. We had so many people coming to say thank you. "A lot of our volunteers were young-sters who wouldn't even remember the carnival first time round, so it was

the carmival first time round, so it was great to get young blood involved too. This is what Halesowen needed." Mr Walker added: "This year we had funding from three or four local companies but really we need the backing of more. The support we have had from the Black Country Festival is unbelievable too."

Dangerous lorry is seized on the M5

A LORRY that had a fork for a door handle amongst other dangerous parts has been seized on the M5.

The vehicle was stopped in the early hours of yesterday at junction 3 for Halesowen after being spotted by Central Motorway Police.

An array of pictures were displayed on the police Twitter page – all show-ing different parts of the dirty green vehicle in dangerous condition.

Among the pictures were the lorry's broken wing mirrors and a metal fork had been tied to the vehicle thought to have been used as a door handle.

Merry Hill in car park £3m revamp

CAR parks and roads at Merry Hill are being given a £3 million revamp aimed at making them more attrac-tive to shoppers and boosting visitor numbers.

Pathways and routes between the shopping malls and car parks at the centre in Brierley Hill are also being spruced up to make it easier for people spruced up to make it easier for people the state of to get around the 125-acre site.

The work is being carried out by Intu Properties, which announced in February it would spend £20m on improvements to the complex over the next three years.

Taxpayers pick up bill for travellers

TRAVELLERS have left rubbish and HAVELLELEN have lett rubbish and a burned-out caravan on a park in Halesowen. The group had been on Hurst Green Park for two weeks be-fore being moved off by bailiffs.

Dudley Council has now spent £2,800 on temporary bollards.

The wreck of the caravan and other litter remained on site while council

bosses sought contractors to remove it. Councillor Hilary Bills said: "Yet again the taxpayer has to foot the bill for mess left by other people."

Parks hosting series of holiday activities

SANDWELL Council are putting on a host of activities for the summer holi-days in six parks across Sandwell.

Activities are open to young people and families from Monday until the end of August at Dartmouth Park and Sandwell Valley. in West Bromwich; Barnford Park in Oldbury; Victoria Park in Smethwick; Jubilec Park in Tipton; Britannia Park in Rowley Regis and Brunswick Park in Wednesbury. Register online at www. sandwell.gov.uk/summer

Students' snake work

A STUDENT from Halesowen College was chosen to attend a research con-ference in Dublin to share his exper tise on pythons. Animal care student Ricky Johnson, aged 20, of Rednal, at-tended the conference at Dublin Zoo. Another student, Deanna Fisher, also had work on show at the event.

Cycle track revamp at the home of champions

FOR more than 60 years Halesowen's Manor Abbey Stadium has been at the centre of sporting excellence.

Built by an army of volunteers and funded by local businessmen after the Second World War, it has been home to some of the nation's greatest cyclists. Now the velodrome has had a £180,000 revamp.

New perimeter fencing and floodlights have been installed as well as repairs to the track surface at the stadium owned by Halesowen Athletic and Cycling Club.

More than 50 riders took part in the Dudley Grand Prix at the Manor Way site on Sunday as the stadium was officially re-opened after the im-

provements.

Around 300 spectators watched the day's cy-

Around 300 spectators watched the day's cycling and a string of invited guests of honour were among those to join club officials.

They included Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho, Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris, and former top riders such as Graham Rees, Bernard Higginson and World Masters Champion Walter Fowler, aged 81, of Kinver.

Also attending was Dave Arris who was one of the original volunteers who dug the foundations of

the original volunteers who dug the foundations of

David Viner, chairman of the club's cycling section, said: "It has been a fantastic day for the club.

"The fencing was in such a state it would not be up to health and safety standards. It now looks far better and is durable. I think we would have had to close down without it. The floodlighting is much better and so is the track surface.

Vision

A lot of the new tracks are indoor velodromes while the Halesowen track is like what track racing used to be like over the last 100 years.

"Our track is the only one in the whole UK which is owned by the club itself. And we have to thank all those people who rolled up their sleeves and had the vision after the war."

"I want to connect the young generation with the older ones to show what they went on to achieve. It is a great facility and we want more children to use it "

The club has around 1,000 members across cycling, athletics, weightlifting, and tennis. It helped develop world class cyclists such as Olympic team members Jess Varnish and Helen Scott and 2014

elite mountain bike series winner Beth Crumpton.
For further details about the club visit www.halesowencycling.net.



Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho flys the Black Country flag with cycling club team manager Dave Viner and veteran cycling champ Walter Fowler at the improved Halesowen club track



First lap honour for Massimo Di Vito, 14, of Lapal, and veteran champion Walter Fowler, 81, of Kinver on track in the first races held after the revamp







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Halesowen Chronicle

THE BEST OF

JANE Peyton, elected as Britain's first "Beer Sommelier of the Year," says beer often goes better with food than wine but is sneered at by wine snobs. Maybe it is. But if you want a truly horrified hush to descend on a smart restaurant, try uttering these words: "A pint of cider, please."

WOMEN footballers, having proved themselves as valiant as the men, should surely be called lions rather than lionesses. After all, feminine terms such as actress, lady doctor, aviatrix and editrix are now regarded as patronising. But it seems I am a voice in the wilderness. The Times, no less, refers to our women's soccer team as "England Glory Girls." How charmingly 1930s.

AS Dallas Campbell continues his trips into potholes in Britain Beneath Your Feet (BBC1) I was reminded of the intrepid potholer on Countryfile (BBC1) who assured us



that few people suffer from claustrophobia when potholing. That, my friend, is because we claustrophobics keep well away from potholes. Call me windy but of all the ways a man can choose to die, being stuck by your shoulders 200ft below around and begins the water the water. ground and hearing the water rising must be the worst.

MORE encounters with

MOHE encounters with the B-word. A reader has a text book from his apprenticeship as a printing compositor. It tells us: "The Half title, or bastard title as it is sometimes termed, is always a right hand page and consists usually of the name or title of the book."

LITTLE DIDE leather sandals, short socks, red romper shorts and white blouse. Good to see, from Princess Charlotte's christening photographs, that Prince George is being raised just like any other little boy. Any other little boy of 1953, that is. LITTLE blue leather sandals, short socks, red romper

A MAN has been fined £220 and banned from keeping a pet after swallowing a live goldfish. The RSPCA alleged that the fish would have suffered distress for several minutes. Fair enough, but are the rich still enjoying live ovsters?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Backlash after chains on flag condemned

THE leader of Dudley Council has called on a campaigner to hand back his OBE after criticising the Black Country flag.

Councillor Pete Lowe joined a chorus of people angry at the remarks of historian Patrick Vernon, who said the flag's chains were 'offensive' to black people. Mr Vernon, who was brought up in Wolverhampton but lives in London, was awarded an OBE in 2012. He has complained that the chains on flag represented those made in the Black Country and used her Described in the chains on the place of the country and used her Described in the country and use the Black Country and used

by Daniel Wainwright

to shackle slaves. to shackle slaves.
Councillor Lowe said Mr
Vernon should return his
Order of the British Empire
medal if he believes the flag
has connotations of slavery, because so did the empire

because so did the empire.

"Why would he have accepted an OBE with the connotations that has? Many refused on principle," said Councillor Lowe,

Mr Vernon responded that he would not be giving back the OBE because he saw it as an award for his parents and their generation.

The flag was designed by Stourbridge schoolgirl Gra-

The flag was designed by Stourbridge schoolgirl Gra-cie Sheppard as part of a competition three years ago. Her father David said: "She researched how to de-sign a flag, keeping it sim-ple, relevant colours and telling a story." telling a story.

"She then researched the "She then researched the Black Country — glass making, chain making, and the saying 'black by day, red by night'. That's it. It is more than just a flag, it is a symbol of what makes the Black Country what it is, and I'm

proud to see so many people proudly showing it and ral-lying behind it." Support our flag was the message this week from MPs, council and commu-nity leaders who hit back at claims that it is offensive

nity leaders who nit back at claims that it is offensive. But anti-racism cam-paigner Mr Vernon insisted the area was 'still in denial' over its links to the slave

trade.
Following Tuesday's Black Country Day – and the festival which has seen thousands celebrating the region's history and culture – he called the chains on the

he called the chains on the flag a 'disturbing' image.
 Mr Vernon, a former London Labour councillor, added: "If we were in America the chains logo would be seen as the equivalent as the Confederate Flag."
 Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin said: "This is ridiculous nonsense. The Black Country Festival brings everyone from our diverse communities together."

Cheerleaders jumping for joy



Emma Pugh, aged 18 from Cradlev Heath, strikes a pose

is jumping for joy after be-ing handed a cash boost

is jumping for joy after being handed a cash boost from the National Lottery. Pedmore Panthers has been awarded £9,800, which will allow for gymnastics lessons to complement cheerleading classes. It is a real pick-me-up for the group, which faced an uncertain future last year after it was forced to move out from it's former home in the Claughton Youth Centre in Dudley. But since moving to its new base in Inspired Communities Centre in Canal Street, Brierley Hill, the club has gone from strength to strength. Head coach Julie Pugh said: "We had to move to new premises in October and at one point we didn't know what we were going to do. Everywhere was just too expensive for us, until Paul Campbell – who runs a karate class here – told sabut it Since we moved

Paul Campbell – who runs a karate class here – told us about it. Since we moved here we wanted to have some more classes, not just cheerleading."

The group, which has 40 members aged from four to 22, has spent the National Lottery windfall on a 'tumble track' which allows gymnasts and cheerleaders to train in a safe environment.

for breast screening in borough

THE number of women invited for breast screening is rising but the total who

actually go is falling in some parts of the West Midlands, although not in Dudley. Across the country there has been a 4.7 per cent in-crease in letters sent to women eligible for the tests. However, the number who book an appointment has fallen for the third succes-sive year. It comes as the Government calls for the number of screenings to go

up every 12 months to boost the fight against cancer. But cancer charities say the figures could show that women are making 'in-formed decisions'.

formed decisions'.

In 2013/14, 72.1 per cent took up their invitation to be screened and were screened within six months of invitation. This compares with

72.2 per cent in 2012/13 and 73.1 per cent in 2011/12.

The total being screened has fallen in Sandwell, Staffordshire, Worcestershire fordshire, Worcestershire and Birmingham. But ihas risen slightly in Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton. In Sandwell the percentage dropped from 72.8 to 72.1, and Staffordshire's went from 79.6 to 79.2, compared to a drop from 71.1 per cent to 70.5 in Birmingham. Across the West Midlands there was a 0.5 per cent drop to 76.3 per cent. Mia Rosenblatt, at Breast Cancer Campaign, said:

Ma Rosenbatt, at Breast Cancer Campaign, said: "Confidence in the screen-ing programme remains strong."

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Pink stars raise £100k

in pink as they took to their heels to remember loved and raise more than

£100,000 — despite a downpour.

A sea of pink descended on Himley Hall as women of all generations ran, walked and jogged around the historic estate in aid of Cancer Research UK.

Race for Life has become a regular feature across the region. There were two events at the estate on Sunday with more than 3,000 taking

part, watched by Priends and Jammy who choose aged them on despite the rain.

Dee Smith from Wordsley was running in memory of her mother Joan who died from cancer. She said: "It is my first time running. Cancer affects so many people so I wanted to do my bit. The weather hasn't been so great, but it's all a bit of fine a very worthy cause."

Ine weather hash t been so great, but it's all a bit of fun for a very worthy cause."
Her friend Wendy Marsh, of Gornal, added: "I've come out to support all those who have lost loved ones to cancer. I'm fortunate enough for it not to have affected my family but I wanted to do my bit.

Everyone is in great spirits and it is a wonderful day regardless of the weather."

Michelle Green from Kingswinford, who helped organise the Stourbridge Stars group of 30 women from across the Black Country, said:

"The atmosphere here is amazing. There such a feel good feeling about the place. Everyone encurrages each other and we all mult together to reei good teeling about the piace. Everyone en-courages each other and we all pull together to complete it. It really is worth taking part and all the money raised is for an important cause." Tracey Duffy, Cancer Research UK's West Midlands events manager, said she hoped the event would raise £105,000.



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IN MY VIEW

Our flag is

all about celebrating industries

THERE are a lot of things about The Beatles' song Penny Lane which I find offensive. The turgid, sentimental lyrica. The dreary, depressing tune. The slack-jawed, disbelief which inevitably follows the confession that I don't actually like The Beatles

The Beatles.

Look, they're just a pop group, like any other, and I don't like them, OK?

However, no reasonable person would ever dream of criticising the song because it celebrates a street which was named after a slave trader. The link is just

named after a slave trader. The link is just too tenuous.
Which brings us to Patrick Vernon, an anti-racism campaigner who for the most bizarre of reasons, has taken offence at the Black Country flag.

Mr Vernon, who grew up in Wolverhampton before moving to the Big Smoke, finds the image of a chain in the Black Country flag "offensive", saying it has connotations with the slave trade.
Oh, gerrover yerself, Mr Vernon, yo'm a very saft mon.

On, gerrover yerself, Mr Vernon, yo'm a very saft mon.

The Black Country flag has nothing to do with slavery, it is about celebrating the industries which put this region at the forefront of the Industrial Revolution.

Mr Vernon says the Black Country glosses over its role in the slave trade. But slavery in Britain ended in 1807, and it seems absurd that Mr Vernon expects us to feel applogetic for the fact that in another century people in other countries. another century people in other countries used our chain for nefarious purposes.

used our chain for netarious purposes.
Perhaps Mr Vernon has been in London for too long.
Down in the great metropolis, they're obsessed with diversity and multiculturalism, emphasising what makes us different

ferent,
But in the Black Country, there is no
diversity, and only one culture. Black,
white, rich or poor, it doh matter, because
under the skin we'm all Black Country –
we're all links in the Black Country chain, and that bond is far stronger than anything that might divide us.

Hope yo 'ad a bostin' Black Country

A FEW weeks ago, I wrote about the "knock-off early" culture which seems to affect many of our retailers, where staff take it upon themselves to shut their take it upon themselves to shut their doors several minutes before closing time to avoid any risk that some of them might have to work a few minutes over.

Well here's a turn-up for the books.

Well here's a turn-up for the books. On Monday, having just returned from a weekend away, it was more in hope than expectation that I battled the rush-nour traffic to get to my local tyre centre before closing time.

I didn't seriously expect anybody to help, but one of the fitters volunteered to work over. Arron Page, of Kingswinford Tyres, yo'm a proper Black Country bloke.





Melody speaking at the New European Awards



Melody Hossaini on a visit to City College, Plymouth

How Melody tuned into career success

She may have been fired from The Apprentice but this social entrepreneur has just won top award, writes Marion Brennan

WHEN Melody Hossaini was asked what job title she wanted to pop up on screen under her name when she appeared on the 2011 series of The Apprentice, she replied 'social entrepreneur'.

"The producer laughed," she recalls.But the former Great Wyrley High School student insisted on the tagline, becoming the show's first – and only – so-cial entrepreneur, the title given to peo-ple who apply commercial strategies to

make social improvements.

She was knocked out just before the final but not before making a big impact. Bold, confident and good-looking, she became famous for her inspirational quote 'Don't tell me the sky's the limit when there are footprints on the moon' - which one fan had tattooed on his

Responsible

Lord Sugar branded her 'ruthless' and 'a tiger' so it was perhaps odd that she did not channel her undoubted business acumen into more obvious money-spinning schemes.

But she says: "Social enterprises are doing well. New statistics have just been published that show they are now doing better than the commercial business model, contributing a lot to the economy and creating many jobs for people.

more responsible consumers. We like to buy in a way that helps someone and there are lots of examples of little pockets of success."

Melody, now 30, is in the news again after being named Europe's Most Influential Woman of 2015 at a ceremony in Brussels.

The awards, under the patronage of the

The awards, under the patronage of the European Parliament, recognise the contri-



Melody goes into schools and colleges to help prepare students for the business world

butions of Europeans with a migrant background. Meeting the qualifying criteria was no problem after being born in war-torn Iran and escaping with her family to Sweden before arriving in South Staffordshire at the age of 13

with her mother and sister.

It was while sitting at her bedroom desk at the family's Station Road home that she spied

the family's Station Road home that she spied an advert in Just 17 magazine for young peo-ple wanted as community ambassadors. It led to 11 years of volunteering, includ-ing two and a half years serving on the Youth Parliament where she ran climate change campaigns and went to 10 Downing Street to speak to Tony Blair about the war in Iraq. She says: "We were shaking things up, it

wasn't just me. It was an incredible time. I'm still friends with these people."

She went on to set up the successful social enterprise, InspirEngage International, in 2009 with the aim of training people to suc-

ceed by giving back.

She goes into schools and colleges, including Great Wyrley High, to help prepare students for the world of business and work, trains vulnerable women to become economically active through social enterprise and guides corporations to better engage with their local

communities.

She said: "This award means a lot to me because of what it represents. So much negative stuff is said about immigrants and asylum

seekers, and I was both of those things.

"The public thinks of them as anonymous people, but they are people like me who have worked hard to give back to their communities. I want to shift people's mindsets about immigrants.

"I'd like them to think that perhaps they shouldn't take a blanket approach.

"Being an immigrant never leaves you, and that's not to say that I don't feel I belong here. I'm married now with a nine-month-old son and a home in Warwickshire. I'm very much settled, but being an immigrant is so much a part of my make-up." part of my make-up.

part of my make-up."

The law graduate, who speaks five languages, describes herself as an 'accidental entrepreneur' who avoided business studies at school. She entered the business arena only as a means of making a living out of her real interest, 'making a difference'.

Her passion for her work has increased since the birth of her son Kian although she

rier passion for her work has increased since the birth of her son Kian, although she is learning the art of balance, she says.
"I work from home a lot so I can spend as much time as possible with him. I cook and put Kian to bed.

Judge

"We find a way because I love my job and I think it will help my son by immersing him in the world I work in. I can't wait for his life to be enriched by the job I do. I'll take him with me as soon as he can walk."

She and businessman Claude Littner, who is the bit of the state of I and I are state of I

Sne and businessman Claude Littler, who is taking over from Nick Hewer as one of Lord Sugar's screen sidekicks, were recently judges on a social enterprise challenge, she says. "They are filming the next series at the moment. He will be a fitting successor to Nick.

ment. He will be a fitting successor to Nick. Despite his screen reputation, he is kind and friendly, a wonderful spirit."

The keen blogger, who regularly reports on the programme for a national newspaper, is looking forward to its return.

She looks back on her time on The Apprentice as a valuable experience and, no, she doesn't cringe when she is reminded of the infamous 'footsteps' quote which she suggests was 'overused' on the show.

She says: "At that point all those years ago that saying inspired me, and you take inspiration where you find it."



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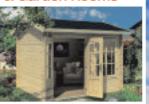
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Watch revamped town centre slip back HAVING just returned from my weekly Thursday shopping trip to Dudley I am impressed with the ongoing, if seemingly endless, work in the contract of the provided results in the provided in the provided results in the provided results

my weekly Thursday shop-ping trip to Dudley I am imseemingly endless, work in the Market Place.

the Market Place.

The covers are now off the fountain and it does look magnificent, I think, when the waters starts to flow it will once again be the centrepiece off the town. The statue of Duncan Edwards on its new plinth, now located in the view of the town. picnic area, also looks great.

The paved and cobbled walkways illuminated by the new street lighting,
along with the nicely designed seating
and waste bins, all enhance the town
centre and when the new arcade of
trees is put into place Dudley will have
a town centre to be proud of — regardless of the fact that the majority of
premises on the High Street are charity, betting, fast food or discount shops.
I believe with a little thought the
council could have saved a great deal
of money on this project. Firstly, the
market stalls and canopy seem to be

market stalls and canopy seem to be superfluous as the stall holders prefer

the planned arcade were acacia trees, some traders could hang their wares from the branches. With the re-emergence of A-boards exalting shops in the Fountain Arcade and stalls in the indoor market, we will back to as before but with better certified. but with better seating.

J H LONG Dudley

sponsors on the BBC

GEORGE Osborne is load-GEORGE Osborne is loading the £650m that the Government normally pay for free TV licences for the pensioners over 75 onto the BBC. This could mean the BBC losing one of its chan-

nels.

Now I know that the BBC cannot advertise but surely, in this day and age, they ought to be allowed to have companies sponsor their programmes like they do on commercial channels They wouldn't have to have commercial breaks. I don't think anyone would object and it would bring in revenue. It may also be able to reduce the licence fee if they did this.

did this.

The Government could The Government could also do a lot more to get the TV licence revenue in from non-payers. They must lose out by millions every year by people not paying the TV licence. On the other hand, there must be room to cut back on some of the news-casters that the BBC use.

B WHITEHOUSE Kingswinford

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Going in circles over public transport

HOW is it that Dudley councillors have no sense of shame for their odd behaviour? First, they keep express and local trains off their very own railway line for 50 years. This is the Black Country ICE (Intercity Express) Line that runs alongside commuter-congested main roads from Stour-bridge to the tourist attractions at Castle Hill.

Then they announced that they were going to allow a shuttle service by a still-to-be-developed Very Light Railcar on one mile of their 13-mile Black Country Line to shuttle passengers to the next intercity express line in their neigh-couring borough of Sandwell. Not to run their own smart, sleek ICE trains, mind you. The second track, for one mile, will be a test track for this university project. Elsewhere in Dudley is a much more suitable site for the Warwick Manufacturing Group to develop the Very Light Railear. However, the stupidity is now capped by their intention to put a speedway stadium on Halesowen's farmland and Group Polt From Second Contractive Communications.

forein Belt. Even more greenhouse gases from motorbikes racing round in circles to further mess up our climate.

Can these councillors' behaviour get anymore weird and used of the council of the counci

It's time for **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** Customers paying for bank flaws

RE Bank closure at Gornal.

Barclays Bank denotes 2008 as the year that the alleged 50 percent decline in usage began. I remember 2008 as the year of crisis for the banks, as in the intervening period we have found out how business was conducted.

They knew the price of everything – even fixing it at times – and the value of at times – and the value of nothing. Now Barclays cus-tomers in Gornal are to pay the price for the bank's mis-

the price for the bank's mis-deeds of the past.

They know the price of keeping Barclays presence in Gornal, but the value to the people counts for noth-

ing.
The recent leaflet and statement have the whiff of 1984 about them, such as 'the changes to Lower Gor-nal', 'your feedback creates a bank in the best interests of all', 'you can talk to us'.
Talk about doublespeak.
George Orwell is alive and

P A LANGFORD Gornal Wood





Inside Pets at Home

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Geopark bid is perfectly natural move



Geologist Graham Worton and Councillor Khurshid Ahmed leave no stone unturned in the quest for geopark status

THE Black Country is bursting with geological wonders and a new bid has been launched to have its special status recognised around the globe.

If successful, the Black Country will be granted Global Geopark status. It would join a network of stunning places of natural beauty, encompass-ing locations in countries as diverse as Australia, Brazil, China and Malaysia.

Dudley tourism chief Councillor Khurshid Ahmed says the Black Country deserves this recognition for its distinct limestone legacy and its industrial and cultural heritage.

He explained: "The Black Country

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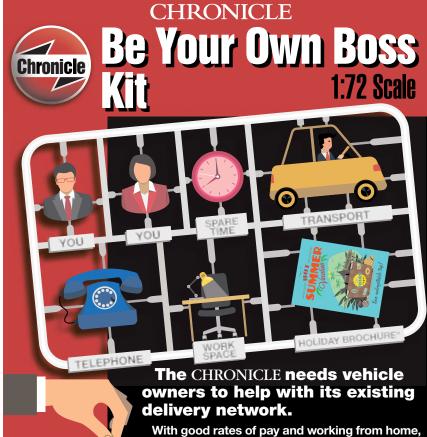
is special for many reasons, not least with it being the place where many es-sential aspects of the Industrial Revo-lution began, which spread to change and modernise the entire world.

"The area which serves over a mil-"The area which serves over a mil-lion people is jam-packed with world-class hidden gems, many of which are nestled amongst buildings, roads and houses. These places are globally unique and internationally impor-tance.

"The Black Country tells an incredible story of vast changes in our planet over 428 million years and has a huge range of special features that are unrivalled anywhere else in the world rivalied anywhere else in the world. We want everyone locally and all over the world to appreciate just how important our industrial, geological and cultural heritage is, as well as just how extensive our contribution was to the Industrial Revolution.

"Our geopark bid will be submitted later in the year." $\,$

Places highlighted in the bid include Dudley's Wren's Nest National Nature Reserve, where the cliffs have vertical ripple beds, which show they were one the sea bed, and is home to 700 different fossils — 86 of which cannot be found anywhere else in the world.



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Schools knife crimes up more than double

Bostin' buses flying the flag



Kerry Jukes-Rowe and Richard Smith of National Express join Black Country Festival organisers, Dave Brownhill and Steve Edwards

THE Black Country flag is flying proudly on buses across the region this month after National Express West Midlands decked 50 of its fleet out in its colours.

Ahead of the official Black Country Day on Tuesday, the bus operator decked out the buses in the black, white and red that adorns the

flag for the area. A host of activities are due to take place all over the Black Country throughout the month, including the return of the Black Country Festival.

Kerry Jukes-Rowe, Dudley man-

near schools more than doubled last year, according to police fig-

The figures fly in the face of knife crime steadily falling in the West Midlands over the past decade.

The information have been released by West Midlands Police under the Freedom of Information Act, and show the number of crimes involving illegal weapons at schools more than doubled last year, up to 37 compared to 17 in 2013.

crimes involving illegal weapons at schools more than doubled last year, up to 37 compared to 17 in 2013.

In 2010 West Midlands Police recorded 30 such incidents, with 24 in 2011 and 28 in 2012.

The figures come after recent appearances in court of at least two youths, charged with having blades at school.

In the first case, a 12-year-old was caught with a fike knife at school in March and charged with possession.

The most recent case saw a 14-year-old boy plead not guilty to being in possession of a five inch kitchen knife at his Wolverhampton school in June, and not guilty to using threatening words and behaviour toward another teenager. He is due to go to trial next month.

Detective Inspector Nick Dale, said: "Knife crime shatters lives and there is never any justification for carrying a weapon – either in a school or any other place. "In the last ten years, we have invested

place.
"In the last ten years, we have invested heavily in campaigns and operations to reduce knife crime, with levels steadily falling to less than half of what they were.
"As part of our 'Knives end Lives' cam-

"As part of our 'Knives end Lives' campaign, we have ploughed significant resources into educating youngsters about the dangers of and consequences of carrying a knife."

More than 50,000 students in Year 5 and 6 have seen the force's hard-hitting presentation that 'de-glamourises' gang culture, he said, which is part of the education packages delivered to schools in the West Midlands.

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ager for National Express West Midlands, said:"We have bus ga-rages in all four of the Black Coun-

try boroughs, employing well over 2,000 local people, so we are proud to supporting the Black Country festival.

Ticket

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Entertainer Conley on song for 600th show



Brian Conley, centre, with the cast of circus musical Barnum that continues at the Hippodrome until August 1

HE has already marked 40 years in showbiz but now Brian Conley has reached another milestone - his 600th performance at the Birmingham Hippodrome.

The entertainer was given a standing ovation as fellow cast members brought a giant cake onto the stage specially made for the occasion.

Conley, who is currently playing the lead role in the musical Barnum which opened last week, celebrated by kiss-

"Birmingham Hippodrome holds so many memories for me," he said. "It's the greatest theatre in the UK, the backstage facilities are fantastic and the staff, on-stage and off, are won-

"Birmingham audiences have been amazing. Thanks to everyone. Long may the Birmingham Hippodrome

reign."
Conley, aged 53, made his Birming-ham Hippodrome debut in Aladdin in 1992 alongside Brit Ekland and Danny La Rue. He has since starred in a further five pantomime productions at the theatre including Dick Whittington Robinson Crusoe and the Carib-

Over the years he has entertained over the years he has entertained audiences totalling more than 600,000, achieving a Birmingham Hippodrome record for the most pantomime appearances.

Conley has also performed leading roles on the Hippodrome stage in a variety of West End musicals includ-

ing Caractacus Potts in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Edna Turnblad in Hair-spray and Fagin in Cameron Mack-intosh's award winning production of





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Movie star Errol Flynn — auction house sold letters sent to a local girl just before he went to Hollywood

sent to a local girl just before he went to Hollywood LOVE letters written by Hollywood star Errol Flynn fetched £1,000 at auction in Stourbridge.

The five letters from the future screen legend and notorious playboy were intended to woo Marjorie Bickham, a girl he met while performing at the Malvern Festival in 1934.

The letters, kept by Marjorie's great niece, were expected to sell for around £600 at Fieldings Auctioneers, but a bidding war increased the final amount.

Judith Woolger, accounts manager, said: "We had three people on the day who were really keen. We even had an internet bidder from the States. But it eventually sold in the room and the person was very happy.

"We always put an estimate on, as things like this can be hard to value, but all it needs on the day is two or more people interested and it can really increase, which is what happened in this case."

The letters were sent during Australia-born Flynn's days as a struggling repertory actor. He was at Birmingham Rep at the time, having yet to make his mark in Hollywood with such films as The Adventures of Robin Hood.

BRIERLEY HILL

Bids reached £1k for movie idol love letters Action call over price of parking at hospital

INCREASES in parking charges at Russells Hall Hospital have prompted calls for Government intervention.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin spoke out after parking charges at Russells Hall hospital went up by half for a half an hour stay.

Bosses have defended the decision saying running and

Bosses have defended the maintenance costs meant the rise was needed following a two year price freeze. Parking for up to 30 minutes now costs £1.50 up from £1, an hour costs £2.60 up from £2 and three hours is up to £4.60 from £4. Long stay parking for up to £4 hours has risen by just 10p and now costs £5.60. Mr Austin said: "Lots of people in Dudley have got in touch with me to say how frustrating it is to have to spend so much on parking when going to the hospital for an appointment or to visit loved ones. "These fees often hit vulnerable people at a time when they may already be facing a fall in their income, and in worth thems at "The

when they may arready be facing a fall in their income, and I want them cut. The Government needs to take a hands-on approach to tackle this issue so I'll keep pushing for action." ing for action."

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by Daniel Wainwright

Health Minister Ben Gummer replied that hospitals have been issued guidance to help regular visitors with the cost of parking.

He said: "You are entirely right that those who seek to access acute services on a regular basis require special treatment. That is why we issued guidance in the previous Parliament. I very much hope that your hospitals will be looking at that."

Paula Clark, chief executive of the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said patient and visitor car park charges had remained unchanged for two years.

"We do not take decisions to increase charges to patients lightly and we have checked the market rate to see how we compare to local trusts," she added.

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12

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birthday

THE meeting in May was a

THE meeting in May was a social evening to celebrate the guild's 56th birthday. Everyone enjoyed savouries and party cakes.

Social Studies was an open meeting to hear Geoff Tristram, author, artist, designer and comedy writer give a talk about his career.

He always wanted to be an artist and one of his first projects was to make a plywood sheep for his school nativity. He attended Tipton Grammar School and then Wolverhampton College of Art. His designs include labels for food containers, cards for every occasion and jigsaw puzzles.

igsaw puzzles.

In June, Phil Griffiths gave a very informative talk on British coinage. His interest began before decirability in the property of the propert imalisation when he tried to collect old pennies from every year, but didn't man-age one from 1931. Coins were first used in 550BC, gold and silver was

found in streams and made into beads and used for bar-

into beads and used for bar-tering.
Small silver pennies were
used for 500 years. Coins
were used for paying taxes
and land deals, while 973
saw the start of the Royal
Mint. Through the years
coins have been designed for
different kings, queens and
events in history. events in history.

The Gardening Group vis-ited Wollerton Old Hall, fol-lowed by an excellent cream

tea.
Social Studies speaker
was Alan Rose showing
slides on comic and humor-

ous inn signs.
On July 22, there is a strawberry supper with the Penn Poets. Meetings are at Penn United Community Hall, Penn Road at 7.15pm.

Party time Donation made to centre for homeless



Carol Fox, of SIFA Fireside, recievs the cheque from Ann and Ray Staniland

SANDWELL Lions Club's sixth anniversary dinner at Brambles was a success. There were Lions from 11 other Lions Club who attended.

attended.

Two Sandwell members visited SIFA Fireside in Digbeth which is a centre for the homeless. Rough sleepers can have breakfast and lunch and also use the facilities to do their laundry, socialise and receive medical care. A donation of £400, made up of a £300 donation and £100 raised through a raffle, was made to them.

A camping weekend was organised for

A camping weekend was organised for the weekend of June 20 at Wolverley and a

Sandwell Lions Club

treasure hunt was being organised for July

12 in Romsley.

The club is searching for a new home to store Santa's sleigh and would welcome any offers of a driveway, corner, side of house if anyone can help.

Anyone wishing to attend a meeting is asked to come along to St Huberts Church Hall, Clent Road, Oldbury on the first or

Silence over member's death

IN the absence of the chairman, the June meeting was presided over by vice-chairman Hazel Needham. She man Hazel Needham. She welcomed all members and two visitors, namely Margaret Brookes and Enid Fennel from Federation.

On a sad note, a minute's silence was observed in memory of Angela Nicholls, an active member whose sudden death shocked everyone.

Angela's daughter Luane addressed the meeting to thank all who had sent

thank all who had sent sympathy cards and shared memories of her mother. Ann McKenzie, on mem-bers' behalf, thanked the committee for its hard work to make the 50th birthday

Wollaston E TWG

celebration a success celebration a success.

The meeting continued with the usual business, and reports from sub-sections, followed by correspondence.

There were boards in circulation for members interested in extractions.

interested in attending the national carol service, the

Federation lunch in Stour-bridge, the harvest lunch in Wollaston in October, the race day in Wollaston in July and the guild's own strawberry tea, when dona-tions will be taken in aid of Macmillan nurses. Speaker David Hickman gave an enjoyable illustrated

speaker Javid Hickman gave an enjoyable illustrated talk on old Stourbridge. Raf-fle prizes went to Joy Cook and Ann Foxall. Joy also won the competition. Refreshments were in the

capable hands of Ann Pow-

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Leasowes students aspire and achieve





Leading by example — the Leasowes High School prefects from the 2015 year group

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Our emphasis on traditional values — excellent uniform.

Our emphasis on traditional values — excellent uniform, discipline and respect — marks us out from many schools and we are immensely proud of our students, who demonstrate a very strong work ethic.

We offer a highly personalised approach to learning and our pupil admissions number of only 150 ensures that our students are treated as individuals and not as just as anothernumber. This is shown by the fact that places at Leasowes are prized in the local community and beyond.

A questionnaire completed by parents at this year's parents' evenings gave the following results: My child is happy at school – 98 per cent (1 per cent unable to comment); my child feels safe at school – 99 per cent (1 per cent unable to comment); my child makes good progress – 98 per cent. It is clear to see that our personalised approaches are appreciated by parents and our motto 'Aspire and Achieve'

students working nard on mathematics of Worcester for the quality of our university access programme. Along with the Duke of Edinburgh Award, our enrichment programme, which is open to all, includes such diverse topics as: Classical Composers, The Value of Latin, a Tea Dance and a Public Speaking workshop.

This year our linguists enjoyed a visit to Barcelona along with a visit from 46 French students. An educational trip to Iceland is scheduled for 2016 as is the annual ski trip to Italy.

In September we launch the Leasowes Learning Lab, an exciting new library/Apple suite in our newly refurbished Performing Arts Block. The addition of a new drama studio, dance studio and digital music hub will give us the chance to offer our students the best possible arts opportunities in a wonderful dedicated space for study. Come and see the difference for yourself. You are cor-

dially invited to join us during our Open Fortnight to see our students in action. Contact the school on 01384 816285 or



Head Boy and Head Girl Joshua Marley and Frances Collins with headmaster Mr Shaw

is taken very seriously indeed. We have a strong pastoral team supported by non-teaching pastoral managers and the school nurse. Their aim is to look after the needs of our

students to overcome any barriers to learning and success. We were recently awarded the national BIG award for bullying intervention work, which clearly demonstrates our ability to give students the confidence to learn in a safe and secure environment.

Academic staff are focused on student progress. We have exciting challenges and experiences for all abilities. Our grammar school-style stream offers challenges to the most able and enrichment opportunities for all of our students are a real chance to discover passions and strengths.

Leasowes recently won an award from The University









Openweek@leasowes.dudlev.sch.uk

Couple are helping other parents cope with loss

BLACK Country couple Libby Martin and Rob Gazzard have turned personal tragedy into help for other shirp back and that it was linked somehow to helping others in our born and they spent less than 24 hours with her. hours with her.

hours with her.
Seeking to provide comfort to
other parents who lose their babies,
the couple are helping fund memory
boxes, as well raising almost \$4,000
for a special hospital cooling cot.
Libby's family run a business
called Bea's Booth which hires out

called Bea's Booth which hires out a photo booth for special occasions. For every client the couple pay for a memory box through the charity 4Louis, which is then provided to a UK hospital for other parents. Libby, aged 24, and fiancé Rob, 26, said a memory box provided by 4Louis helped to ease their pain after Beatrice died at Birmingham City Hospital in December last year.

hired, we sponsor a box.
"Each box contains various things

"Each box contains various things to help grieving families make memories with their baby including special printing paper to take hand and foot prints, two teddies, one for the baby and one for you, and clay to take hand and foot prints. The memory box provided us with the only thing we could take away from our meeting with our daughter. It's invaluable to parents who have lost their baby."

The couple from Stourbridge, who now live in Sutton Coldfield, have raised almost £4,000 and provided Birmingham City Hospital with a cooling cot.



Precious memories — Rob Gazzard and Libby Martin, whose baby daughter Beatrice died, help other parents

£1.5m worth of cannabis is seized

WEST Midlands Police have seized and destroyed 2,820 cannabis plants, worth an estimated £1.5 million on the street, in just one month across the Black Country.

street, in just one month across the Black Country. The force's Cannabis Team confiscated the drugs during a series of raids in June.

The team also seized 479 light bulbs from cannabis farms over the same period. They will now be recycled.

Over the course of the month a total of 398 plants were taken from a house in The Broadway, Stourbridge, which had been specially converted for cultivation of the drug plants. drug plants.

Electricity

And 77 plants were also seized during a swoop on a home in Pleasant View, Gornal, while dozens of plants were taken from a house in Churchfield Street, Dudley,

during a busy month for the cannabis crew. In Walsall 47 plants were seized from a house in Moat Road, where two rooms had been converted for cultiva-tion. Electricity at the property had been illegally abstracted to power the venture.

Borough needs more crossing wardens

MORE lollipop men and women are needed to help young children cross busy roads.

Dudley Council is calling for applicants for nine warden, covering Halesowen, Kingswinford, Stourbridge and Dudley.

The school crossing patrols operate across the borough The school crossing patrols operate across the borough to encourage children and families to walk to school and provide support in crossing the road safely. The service in Dudley recently celebrated its 60th anniversary.

A number of information sessions have been arranged at libraries or anyone interested in finding out more about what the role entails.

Councillor Hilary Bills

Councillor Hilary Bills

from 10.30am to 2.30pm in Kingswinford Library.

The council are look-ing for reliable and caring people who are aged over 18 with good eyesight and hearing, who can pass med-ical and Disclosure and Bar-

ring Service checks, and are able to work for about half

an hour in the morning and half an hour in the afternoon on all school days In 2013, lollipop men and women in Dudley were

given a new tool to help them deal with the wrath of

signs and designed as a deterrent against road rage

outbursts. They also record footage of drivers who fail to stop at the crossings. For more information

call (01384) 815401, email schoolcrossingpatrolad

min@dudley.gov.uk or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/school

inpatient motorists. Cameras were positioned inside the poles of their

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "Our school crossing patrols are school crossing patrols are highly valued members of the road safety team and have an extremely impor-tant role in the community. "Patrols work term time only and the job would suit

people who perhaps need to work around other daily

Encourage

"I would encourage any-one who is interested to find out a bit more about the role, without obligation, to get along to one the library sessions and have a chat with the friendly road safety

staff."
The information sessions will be at Dudley Library on July 22 and 29 from 10am to 3pm. Long Lane Library is holding a session today (Thursday) from 9.30am to 1pm

1pm. Stourbridge Library will have staff available to speak about the role on Tuesday,

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owners at Nuttalls

Employees are now

DUDLEY shopfitting and interior display manufacturer Alan Nuttall has become an employee-owned partnership under legislation brought in by the Government last year. All employees are now partners, with an Employee Ownership Trust holding the majority of shares in the business. Chairman Alan Nuttall started the Hall Street business in 1966 with just £137 and it has grown to become one of the UK's largest, most successful, privately owned shopfitting companies. "I am delighted to realise my vision for the business. I was inspired by the John Lewis model and saw this as an opportunity to protect the future of the company by providing long-term secure ownership," said Mr Nuttall. Managing director Nino Calandra added: "We believe that giving all of our employees a meaningful stake encour-

that giving all of our employees a meaningful stake encourages accountability and engagement."

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Celebrating pride of the Black Country



Stourbridge glassblower Robert Merlyn demonstrates his skills as part of the Black Country celebrations

HIP, hip hooray for Black Country Day as the area's capital, Dudley, this week joined in the annual knees up to show pride and passion in our home area.

Thousands have already taken part in celebrations held in town squares, community centres and the local pub for the Black Country Festival.

The festival marks a month-long celebration bringing together all the events planned under one umbrella during July.

Black Country Festival chairman, and one of its founders, Steve Edwards, said: "People often ask me where the heart of the Black Country is. My re-

sponse is always the same, 'The heart of the Black Country is beating in the chest of every mon, woman and babbie that are Black Country and proud'."

From sampling pork scratchings with a pint of ale or flying the flag with pride listening to the Black Country Anthem – there was lots to see and do over the weekend and events are continuing across the month.

Musicians

Swathes of visitors soaked up the sun for the flagship event of the Black Country Festival in Dudley on Saturday. The scene was Stone Street

Square where musicians, glass-blowers, dancers, stall-holders and Black Country Mon dressed as a superhero, put people in the carnival mood.

Hundreds gathered in Cradley Heath to mark the 2015 Chainmakers Festival on Sunday.

The TUC and Sandwell Council-led event saw market stalls, fairground rides, live music, dance and speeches.

There were also large crowds in Wall Heath on Saturday. The village's summer fair looked at how villagers interacted with Black Country life, and more than 1,000 people flocked to the Gornal Fun Day.





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Survey says we should go it alone



Raising a glass to the Black Country - Sarah Nixon at the Duke William pub in Stourbridge during its beer festival

COUNCILS in the Black Country should go it alone and reject plans to link up with Birmingham, according to hundreds of people who took part in an Express & Star survey.

The Your Black Country question-naire in The Chronicle's sister daily newspaper also revealed that the ma-jority of residents still feel proud to live in the region.

Though they were concerned that the area was often overlooked when it came to investment, it was felt that the Black Country will still be remembered in 30 years time.

Readers were also asked if they liked

the idea of a Black Country mayor and Carl Chinn was named as the fa-vourite for the post, with 45 per cent, finishing ahead of rock legend Robert

Mr Chinn revealed that he would consider taking up the role if one was ever devised. He added: "If people thought I could do it I would have to give it serious thought."

Council leaders across the Black Country, Birmingham and Solihull met earlier this month to set out their bid to the Government for devolved powers to oversee transport spending, skills and attracting investment.

But some 60 per cent of readers were against the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), and 55.7 per cent said the Black Country councils should unite and go it alone without Birmingham.

The phrase 'Greater Birmingham' appeared regularly in comments people had made on their survey forms, as they fear the Black Country will lose its identity under that name. But that title has already been rejected by council leaders in favour of WMCA.

In other results from the survey, 77.9 per cent said that they were proud to live in the Black Country.

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A DRUNK Christmas Eve reveller who hit a man while holding a pint glass has been spared an immediate iail sentence.

Jamie Graham took of-fence when James Adams commented 'you have had

commented 'you have had a few' after 22-year-old Graham knocked over a chair on his way to the bar at The Britannia, in Halesowen Street, Blackheath.

Mr Lal Amarasinghe, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court that Graham punched the startled victim in the face. A scuffle ensued during which the defendant hit the victim in the head while the victim in the head while the victim in the head while clutching an empty pint glass that shattered. Mr Adams was taken to hospi-tal for treatment to cuts to his head and eyebrow.

Mr Andrew Hope, defending, said: "This was completely out of character. He had drunk far more than he should have done."

Graham, of Marsham Road, Kings Heath, of previous good character, pleaded guilty to assault and was given a nine-month jail sentence suspended for 18 months with 100 hours unpaid work, and ordered to pay £475 compensation.

Carer advice

A FORTNIGHTLY drop-in advice session for carers in Sandwell is taking place at Balackheath Library on a
Wednesday from 10am to
noon, including advice on
benefits.
For details call 0121 559
1884 or email blackheath

library@sandwell.gov.uk

pub attack A DRUNK Christmas Eve reveiller who hit a man part of the control of t keep security cameras on

received in a bid to secure the future of CCTV cameras that help deter crime in Blackheath.

Campaigners are celebratinggetting the cash donation, which they say will help pay for maintenance of the 16 cameras in the town.

They feared the cameras would become obsolete unless

money was found to keep them up to date.

All but two of them pro-vide 24-hour surveillance, which campaigners say is important for keeping resi-dents and shoppers safe. Members of Blackheath

Traders Association worked to secure the funding to pay

to secure the funding to pay for their upkeep.

Donations include £2,000 from West Midlands Police, £4,380 from Sandwell Coun-cil and £1,000 from Black Country Housing Group.

Traders association founder, Nagi Daya Singh, who runs the Treasure Is-land effit show said he was

land gift shop, said he was delighted with the cash

Updating

"The CCTV is so impor-tant to our town as it makes both shopkeepers and shop-pers feel safe," he said. "However, the cameras and the operating system needed updating at a cost of over £5,000, so we are really grateful to West Midlands Police, Sandwell Council

by Andrew Turton

and Black Country Housing for giving us the cash.

for giving us the cash.

"Without the money the
CCTV would not have been
in use. That is why I have to
thank them from the bottom of my heart."

He added: "The cameras
have been useful in stopping shoplifters and people
pinching bags from people
in the street.

"It is just about making

"It is just about making people feel safer.'

Mr Singh said the group was aiming to make Blackheath a cleaner, greener and more vibrant place for shoppers to visit.

Members also aim to increase footfall into the town as a whole.

Mr Singh added that the group's members hold regular meetings to discuss any issues that arise in the town and to liaise with police. The next is on July 23 at 5.30pm at Blackheath Library.



Dame Tessa Jowell DBE with Shahidur Rahman of Raj Spice, and Shelim Hussain MBE

Business award for Raj Spice

AN Indian restaurant in Rowley Regis had a star-ring role at the 2015 Curry Life Business Achievement

Life Business Achievement Awards, as one of the best achievers in the country. The Raj Spice, Halesowen Street, is owned by Shahi-dur Rahman and was given recognition in a glittering ceremony in London.

Curry Life Magazine promoted the glamorous promoted the glamorous event, where 600 people saw awards given to 16 top Asian entrepreneurs across the UK at the ceremony held at the Park Plaza Riverbank London Hotel. Among VII guests was former Olympic minister Dame Tessa Jowell and Paralympic swimming gold medallist Lord Chris Holmes, of Kidderminster. Mr Rahman said: "We

Mr Ramman said: we were absolutely overjoyed to be named the best achiever alongside 16 businesses in the country. I'd like to thank all our loyal customers. It's been a real team effort."

Restaurant at island to create jobs

A RESTAURANT, creating 80 jobs, will be built as part of the first phase of a re-

of the first phase of a re-generation project at Old-bury's Birchley Island.

The site, between the island and the slip road for Junction 2 of the M5, has previously been ear-marked for a hotel and ca-

sino but both schemes were scrapped by developers. St Modwen has now un-veiled multi-million pound proposals for a restaurant

proposals for a restaurant operated by national chain Greene King.

The developer says the project will act as a catalyst for the regeneration of the whole site with planning applications for further development to follow later.

Agent Mairead Kiely, for St Modwen, said: "The proposed development reporoposed development reporoposed development reporoposed development reporoposed development reporoposed development reporoposed development reporture of the proposed development reportur

proposed development represents a positive opportunity to bring an important site fully into productive use, generating jobs and attracting investment."

Homes plan at old school

A FORMER school in Row ley Regis will be demol-ished to make way for more than 100 homes under new

Developer Redrow has Developer Redrow has revealed proposals for the site of the former St Mi-chael's CE High School in Throne Road, which has been empty since 2011 when the school moved to Currall Road.

The developer wants build an estate of 124 properties in place of the former school and college.





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Middle of Nowhere Festival



Fri - Sun Lower Drayton Farm, Penkridge This festival of rock, blues and folk music promises to be a fun event for the whole family. The line-up is led by Bon Jovi tribute band Bon Giovi (pictured).
Visit www.monmusicfestival.co.uk

Neil Diamond



Saturday, 8pm Genting Arena, B'ham Legendary songwriter and singer Neil Diamond plays in Birmingham tomorrow night. This show follows a performance in the city last weekend which wowed fans Visit www.gentingarena.co.uk

Duran Duran Experience: Duran Duran Tribute Sat at 7.30pm, £8 The River Rooms, Stourbridge,

DY8 1.JN Call 01384 397177

Beres Hammond & Bunny Wailer Sat at 9pm, £35 - £37.50 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Larry Miller Thu at 7.30pm, £12 The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Three Blind Mice Sat at 12am, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

Traditional Music Sessions Sun at 8pm, Prince Of Wales, Moseley, Birmingham, B13 8EE.

Irish Session Wed at 8pm, Free Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

Common Folk: Singers' Night Thu at 8.30pm, £1 Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club, Walsall, WS3 4BP.

Call 01922 682018 Country Music Nights Sun at 8.15pm, £2 Swan With Two Necks, Longdon, WS15 4PN. Call 01543 491570

Bev Pegg Fri at 8.30pm, £6 - £7 Ashwood Marina Ltd, Ashwood Marina, Kingswinford, DY6 0AQ. Call 01384 560462

Gren Bartley Sat at 8pm, £8 - £10 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

JAZZ & BLUES

Lil' Jimmy Reed Band Wed at 7.30pm, £14 - £15 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Jazzline presents...Three Step Tue, 7.30pm The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU. Call 0121 200 3030

The Foundations Thu, 7.30pm The Jam House,Birmingham, B31QU. Call 0121 200 3030

Camel: Greatest Hits



Thursday, 8pm Civic Hall, W'ton Original member Andy Latimer will be joined by long time band member, Col-in Bass and Denis Clement (drums), Guy LeBlanc (keyboards) to celebrate seminal rockers Camel.
Visit www.wolvescivic.co.uk

Alex Horne



Friday, 8pm Gatehouse Theatre Stafford Nominated for Best Show at the 2014 Foster's Edinburgh Comedy Awards, and Winner of the Chortle Award for Innovation 2015, Alex Horne brings his show to Stafford

www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk

FESTIVALS

Middle of Nowhere Festival Lower Drayton Farm, Penkridge. Call 07817 691352

ROCK & POP

Neil Diamond

Sat at 8pm, £73.83 - £96.33 Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Jean GenieSat at 7.30pm, £12.50 - £15
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Gehtika plus Destroyed Beyond Sat at 7pm, £6.60 Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1HP Call 01902 552106

Fred Zeppelin + Quo Motion Fri at 7.30pm, £10 - £12 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Morpheus Rising + Hi-On Maiden Sun at 7.30pm, £10 - £12 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

The Smyths: The Smiths Tribute Fri at 7.30pm, £10 The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN.

Jake Quickenden Sat at 7pm, £15 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.

Call 01384 397177

Call 0121 622 8250 Thu at 8pm, £27.50 - £33

Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

Fell Out Boy: Fall Out **Boy Tribute** Thu at 7pm, £6
Wolverhampton Civic Hall,
WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

Bars And Melody Wed at 8pm, £20 Wolverhampton Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

Nicholas McDonald Mon at 7pm - 10pm, £18 - £25 The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

Sat - Sun at 8pm - 2am, £6 Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

Jazzlines Free Gigs: Sam Braysher Quartet Friday, 5pm. Free Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA Call 0121 780 3333

Jazz In The Courtyard Sun at 4.30pm, Free Light House, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT. Call 01902 716055

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Andre Rieu's 2015 Maastricht Concert Screening Sat at 7pm, £16 - £18 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

Stafford Gatehouse, ST16 2LT. Sat at 7pm, £16 - £18 Call 01785 619080

A Song for all Seasons Sat at 7.30pm, £10 Beckminster Methodist Church, Birches Barn Road, Wolverhampton, WV3 7BQ. Call 01902 344910

RSC Live: Merchant of Venice Wed at 7pm, Electric Cinema, 47-49 Station Street, Birmingham, B5 4DY. Call 0121 643 7879

Wed at 7pm, Light House, Fryer Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT. Call 01902 716055

Wed at 7pm, Artrix, Slideslow Drive, Artrix, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B61 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

CBSO Summer Concert Thursday, 7.30pm, £12.50 - £44 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Let's Celebrate: Sutton Coldfield Choirs Sat at 7.30pm, £8 - £11 Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, B3 3HG. Call 0121 331 5901

THEATRE

Fri, Sat, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm, Sat at 2.30pm, £19.50 - £48.50 Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Aliens Love Underpants Wed at 2pm, 2.30pm, Thu at 11am, 2pm, £10.50 - £13.50 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, W/1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

An Evening of Dirty Dancing Fri at 7.30pm, £18 - £24.90 Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1AP. Call 0844 871 7627

The Jungle Book
Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
£10 - £12 Palace Theatre, Redditch B98 8AF Call 01527 65203

Cyrano de Bergerao Tue, Wed at 7pm - 9.30pm, £6 - £12.50 Selly Manor Museum, Bournville, Birmingham, B30 1UB. Call 0121 472 0199

Girls Like That Fri, Sat at 7.45pm, Sat at 2pm, £10.50 The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE. Call 0121 643 5858

Entertaining Angels: Lichfield Players
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm, £9 - £12
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

Much Ado About Nothing Sun at 7.30pm - 9.30pm, £12 - £15 mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH Call 0121 446 3232

Oddsocks: Twelfth Night Sat at 7.30pm - 9.30pm £12 - £50 mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH. Call 0121 446 3232

Pongo's Party Sun at 11am, 1.30pm, £10.50 - £36 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

Forever In Blue Jeans Thu at 7.30pm, £19.50 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

A Midsummer Night's Dream Thu at 7.30pm, £10 - £14 The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE. Call 0121 643 5858

COMEDY

Comedy Carousel Thu at 7pm, £5 - £19.50 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

The Best in Live Stand-Up Comedy Fri. Sat at 7pm. £5 - £18.50 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Alex Horne Fri at 8pm, £15.50 Stafford Gatehouse, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 619080

OPEN MICS

Sunday Shenanigans - Open

Sun at 8pm - 12pm, Free Moochers, Stourbridge, DY8 1PH. Call 01384 671141 Open Mic Night

Mon at 8.30pm, Free Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

ART GALLERIES

Takehisa Kosugi Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, B1 2HS. Call 0121 248 0708

St Ives Artists
Fri, Sat, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am
- 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm,
Free

The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG. Call 01922 654400

Birmingham People Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Fri at 10.30am 5pm, Free Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH. Call 0121 303 1966

Pop in Space Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10.30am - 4.30pm, Free Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU. Call 01902 552055

Georgian Enamels Fri, Sat, Sun, Tue, Wed, Thu at 11am - 5pm, Free Bantock House, Wolverhampton, WV3 9LQ. Call 01902 552195

The Clive Beardsmore Gift Fri, Sat, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Free The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG. Call 01922 654400

Happy Birthday, Scottish National Gallery Of Modern Art! Tue at 10.15am - 3.30pm, Wed at 10.15am - 3.30pm, Thu at 10.15am - 3.30pm, 21.50 Birmingham Back to Backs, 55-63 Hurst Street / 50-54 Inge Street Birmingham 84 4TF

Street, Birmingham, B5 4TE. Call 0121 666 7671 OTHER EVENTS

Murder Mystery Dinner Sat at 7.15pm, £32.95 The Shugborough Estate, near Stafford, ST17 0XB. Call 01889 881388

Antiques For Everyone Thu at 11am - 5pm, £12 The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Check out full listings in the ticket in Friday's Express & Star

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Close encounter of the hilarious kind



Hang onto your underpants... the aliens are on the way to entertain family audiences at Wolverhampton Grand Theatr

IN space there are no underpants, and that's a problem because Aliens

and that's a problem because Aliens Love Underpants... of every shape and size.

The zany and hilarious tale based on the best-selling children's book by Claire Freedman and Ben Cort has been turned into a colourful stage production with stunning effects,

madcap action and original music. And lots and lots of aliens

This fresh and funny family show, adapted and directed by Adam Bampton-Smith, has been described as a close encounter of the most entertaining kind and will be staged at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Wednesday to Friday, July 22 to 24. Aliens Love Underpants is per-

Aliens Love Underpants is per-formed at 2 and 4.30pm on Wednes-day, 11am and 2pm Thursday and at 11am only on the Friday. Tickets are £12.50, available from the website www.grandtheatre.co.uk or by calling the Lichfield Street ven-ue's box office on 01902 429212... just hang onto your pants!



From bayou to Bilston

FROM shot-gun shack to festival main stage, the prodigious talents of Lil' Jimmy Reed have taken him a long way from the banks of the Mississippi river.

One of the last surviving performers of the classic Louisiana down-home blues era, Lil' Jimmy has recently been inducted into the prestigious Blues Hall of Fame.

After taking several countries in Europe by storm over the past 12 months, with many sell-out shows and standing ovations, not bad for someone whose first guitar was fashioned out an old cigar bay and learned to play by self.

tions, not bad for someone whose first guitar was fashioned out an old cigar box and learned to play by ear.

The bluesman is coming to Bilston to perform at the Robin 2 on Wednesday, July 22.

His first guitar was fashioned out of an old cigar box. He learned to play by ear, never had a lesson in his life.

His real name is Leon Atkins and he acquired the name change after turning up to watch the popular blues singer Jimmy Reed; the management at the venue, seeing their man was too worse for wear with drink to put before an audience, and aware of Leon's growing resultation, thrust him onto the and aware of Leon's growing reputation, thrust him onto the stage, introducing him as Lil' Jimmy Reed — and the name

stuck!
The 76-year-old musician will be appearing with his band, featuring Bob Hall on boogie woogie piano, for this all-seated show at the Mount Pleasant venue.
Tickets are £14 in advance or £15 on the door, open from 7.30pm. Book at www.therobin.co.uk or call the box office on 01902 401211.

New Order returning with album and tour

NEW Order will play a gig at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall in

NEW Order will play a gig at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall in November, after releasing their first album in ten years.

The Manchester group will take to the stage on November 24. Music Complete, released in September, will feature guests Brandon Flowers, Iggy Pop and Elly Jackson, of La Roux, and is their first album since Waiting for the Sirens Call in 2005.

Since then bass player Peter Hook left the group, which was formed by members of Joy Division after singer Ian Curtis's death in 1980. New Order hits include 1990 England World Cup anthem World in Motion, Regret and Blue Monday. Tickets are £41.25.

Blue star Simon as a big bad wolf

A NEW family musical is trotting into Birmingham Town Hall before heading to London's

Hall before heading to London's West End.

Birmingham's own Blue and Strictly Come Dancing star Simon Webbe will play the big bad wolf in 3 Little Pigs, from the songwriting duo George Stiles and Anthony Drewe, at the Victoria Square venue for matinee performances from July 28 to August 2.

His co-stars include West End

His co-stars include West End His co-stars include West End stars Leanne Jones from Hair-spray and Wolverhampton's Taofique Folarin from The Lion King. Tickets start at £12 plus fees from www.thsh.co.uk or call 0121 345 0600.

Camel make Civic classic rock oasis

KENT rock band Camel formed in 1971 and are still producing the goods more than 40 years on, albeit with only guitarist/vo-calist Andy Latiner remaining

from the original line-up. Stalwarts of the Canterbury Stalwarts of the Canterbury progressive rock scene, that also spawned Soft Machine, Caravan and Matching Mole, Camel crated 14 studio albums. They won acclaim in 1974 with second album Mirage and 1975 concept album The Snow Goose.

They will be in concert at

concept album The Snow Goose.
They will be in concert at
Wolverhampton Civic Hall on
Thursday, July 23. Tickets start
£27.50, from www.wolves
civic.co.uk or by calling 0970
290 7000







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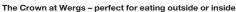
and Botanic Garden. Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham, BI5 2RT www.winterbourne.org.uk Tel. 0121 414 3003



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eating out











Choc pots - the caramel added a nice twist

This real jewel in city's Crown offers a right royal tasty treat

beating down and a chilled glass

It's the kind of place that you want to make an effort for - if you pop in, get a little

does that? So deciding I was definitely hav-ing the apple tart I could go all out with my

to choose from. My friend had already set his heart on the Beech mushrooms dish and I eventually went for the warm Melusine goat's cheese crottin with beetroot carpaccio and borage honey.

Sweetness

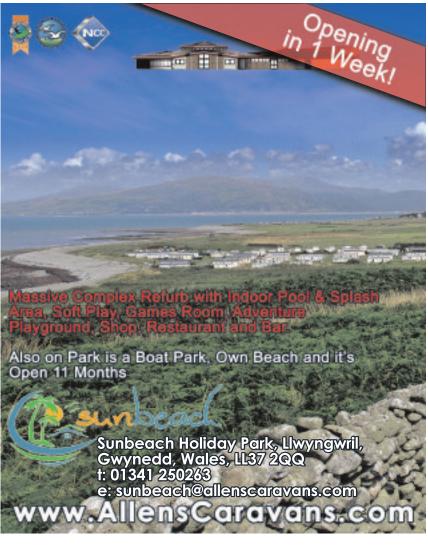
The dish was summer on a plate, warm, gooey, sharp cheese was balanced by the beetroot, while the sweetness of the honey beetroot, while the sweetness of the honey added a very pleasant extra. My friend's mushrooms arrived in a creamy and rich white wine and black garlic velouté. The mushrooms were tender, the poached egg was perfectly runny and yellow and the and pistou brioche added a contrasting texture. The main courses were as difficult to choose from as the starters, I could have devouved pretty much anything on the list

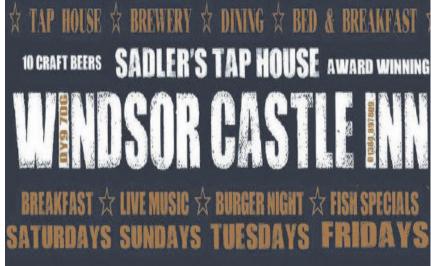
devoured pretty much anything on the list. But in the end it was the duck that I went

moist, the waffle was sweet and a surpris-ing delight. Together with the sweet potato and honey roasted pineapple it made for a sugary dish, but I thought it was divine. My friend's fillet steak was a hunk of juicy meat

friend's fillet steak was a hunk of juicy meat and was a real quality cut which was cooked perfectly medium rare.

We were getting too full for dessert, but I'd already decided what I was having. The warm tarte aux pommes was exactly as I'd hoped it would be. Thinly sliced apples on wafer thin pastry and with the creamiest vanilla ice cream. My friend wolfed down his salted caramel chocolate pot – gooey chocolate, with the caramel exhlustor for the control of the con his salted caramel chocolate pot – gooey chocolate, with the caramel subtly offsetting the taste of the chocolate. Our meal and drinks came to just over £80, which is not cheap, but for three excellent courses, a couple of glasses of wine and a cider, was worth every penny.









CHOICE



Carl Frampton

Boxing: Frampton Live (ITV, 9.45pm)

Carl Frampton v Alejandro Gonzalez Jr. Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the bout for the IBF World Super Bantamweight title, which takes place at Don Haskins Convention Centre in El Paso, Texas. Northern Irishman Frampton is making the second defence of the title he won last year, and will enter this fight as an overwhelming favourite against a Mexican opponent who has not faced anyone of known repute, and is fighting outside of his native country for just the second time as a professional. Commentary comes from Dave Farrar and Richie Woodhall, with analysis by David Have and Duke McKenzie.

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Golf: The Open Championship. 12.00 BBC News; Championship. 12.00 BBC News;
Weather. 12.10 Golf: The Open
Championship. Hazel Irvine introduces
further coverage of the third day from the
Old Course at St Andrews, where the
H44th staging of the Major continues.
With commentary by Peter Allies, Ken
Brown, Andrew Cotter, Mark James,
Frank Nobilo, Philip Parkin, Maureen
Madill and Julian Tutt, and reports from
Cara Robinson and Rishi Persad.

6.45 BBC News.

6.55 Regional Programme. 7.00 Prized Apart. The five remaining adventurers head to the Moroccan port of Essaouira, where challenges include filling a basket of sardines to a weight of 50kg — without using a measuring aid. Presented by Emma Willis and Reggie Yates

Reggie Yates.

8.05 The Mational Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up. Gaby Roslin introduces the Lotto and Thunderball draws and Will Young performs his new single.

8.55 Casualty. An unlikely hero leads the team to a crucial diagnosis and things get worse for Dylan as he struggles with his obsessive behaviour compulsions.

behaviour compulsions.

9.45 The John Bishop Show. The Ine John Bishop Show. The comedian introduces stand-up routines from Jo Caulfield, Andy Askins and Daniel Sloss, music from Andreya Triana and John Newman, and magic by Jason Byrne. Last in the series.

10.30 BBC News; Weather; National

10.50 Not Going Out. Lucy plans an anniversary party for her parents and is determined to keep it a secret. However, she makes the big mistake of telling Lee all the details. (R)

details. (R)

11.20 Would I Lie to You? Rob Brydon hosts the panel show, in which captains David Mitchell and Leee, Mack are joined by Charles Dance, Stephen Mangan, Isy Suttie and Gok Wan. (R)

11.50 Film: Seraphim Falls. (2006) An injured I lipin coldier flees through

injured Union soldier flees through a mountain wilderness pursued by a vengeful Confederate officer. Western thriller, starring Pierce Brosnan and Liam Neeson.

1.35 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.40

RRC2

7.05 Film: The Master of Ballantrae. (1953) 8.30 The Women's Football (1953) 8.30 The Women's Football Show. 9.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 10.30 The Box. (R) 11.00 Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) 12.00 Athletics. 1.00 Live Davis Cup Tennis. Great Britain v France. 4.00 Holiday of My Lifetime with Len Goodman. (R) 4.45 Escape to the Continent. 5.45 Floot It! (R) Continent, **5.45** Flog It! (R)

Continent. 5. 49 Flog Itt (H)

6.45 Golf: The Open Championship.
Hazel Irvine introduces live
coverage of the elosing stages of
the third day from the Old Course at
St Andrews, where the 144th
staging of the Major continues. The
players that featured at the top of players that featured at the top of the leaderboard at the halfway stage were the last to take to the course today, and all will be looking to produce a strong finish to their ounds and put themselves in contention for the title heading into contention for the title heading into contention for the title heading into the content of the

7.45 Edwardian Farm. The arrival of spring sees the daffodil harvest, a spring sees the dathodil harvest, a pony trek and the birth of new lambs – as well as a pleasant surprise for Ruth in the run-up to Mother's Day. (R) 8.45 Dad's Army. Sqt Wilson struggles to concentrate on his Home Guard duties when he has a personal problem to contend with. (R)

unties Winter has a personal personal problem to contend with. (R)

9.15 Melvyn Brags: Wigton to Westminster. Documentary about the broadcaster's life. The film examines the influence of his working class roots in Cumbria on his 50-year career as one of Britain's foremost champions of the arts, presenting The South Bank Show, becoming a regular presence on Radio 4 and a prolific author. Featuring contributions from Judi Dench, Grayson Perry, Chris Evans and Will Self.

10.30 Mock the Week. Ed Byrne, Rob Beckett, Sara Pascoe, Romesh Ranganathan and Ed Gamble join

Ranganathan and Ed Gamble join Dara O Briain and Hugh Dennis for the topical comedy quiz show. (R)

11.05 Film: Little Voice. (1998) A shy woman with a talent for impersonating famous performers is exploited by a greedy promoter. Comedy drama, with Jane Horrocks and Michael Caine

12.35 Film: Heavenly Creatures. (1994) 2.10 This Is BBC Two.

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! 6.25 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan. (R) 6.25 Pat 8 Stan. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan. (R) 7.00 Canimais. (R) 7.15 Sooty. (R) 7.30 Canimais. (R) 7.15 Sooty. (R) 7.30 Super 4. (R) 7.45 Fish Hooks. 8.00 Young Justice: Invasion. (R) 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 10.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 11.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 11.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 13.30 All Star Family Fortunes. (R) 4.15 Tipping Point. (R) 5.15 Catchiphrase. Stephen Mullinern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000. (R)

6.00 Regional Programme: Weather.

 15. ITV News; Weather.
 15. ITV News; Weather.
 16.30 You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring children performing a stage version of The Exorcist, a stripping grandmother and death-defying teenagers. (R)

7.00 Film: Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2. (2011) The young wizard continues his search for the artefacts containing fragments of the dark love Voldemort's soul. Time is running voluemort's soul. Time is running out, as the evil sorcerer is aware of Harry's mission, and marshals his forces for a final, devastating attack on Harry and his friends at Hogwarts school. Conclusion of the fantasy saga, with Daniel Radcliffe, Ralph Fiennes, Rupert Crist, Erman Maten and Man Grint, Emma Watson and Alan

9.30 ITV News: Weather

9.30 ITV News; Weather
9.45 Boxing: Frampton Live.
Carl Frampton v Alejandro
Gonzalez Jr. Overrage of the bout
for the IBF World Super
Bantamweight title, which takes
place at Don Haskins Convention
Centre in EI Pao, Texas.
11.00 The Chase. Bradley Walsh
presents as four contestants pit
their wits against ruthless quiz
genius the Chaser in the hope of
winning a potential prize pot worlft

genius the Chaser in the nope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught. (R)

12.00 Jackpot247. 3.00 Ejector Seat. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The Chester Deva Triathlon. 6.35 The Grid. 7.00 IPC World Swimming The Grid. 7.00 IPC World Swimming Championships 2015. 8.00 The Morning Line. 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Frasier. (R) 10.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.95 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.95 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.25 The Simpsons. (R) 11.55 The Simpsons. (R) 11.55 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.25 The Simpsons. (R) 12.55 Rude(sh) Tube. 1.25 Chamel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newbury, Newmarket and Market Rasen. 4.15 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.15 Come D

6.15 Come Dine with Me. It is the Come Dine with Me. It is the turn of the former Apprentice contestant Stuart Baggs to host the final dinner party on the Isle of Man. He serves an American-inspired mezze with "Harvard mess". (R)

American-inspired mezze with
"Harvard mess". (R)
6.40 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Homes by the Sac. Charlie
Luxton explores coastal
properties in Norfolk, including a
former granary on the Blakeney
quayside and a lighthouse in
Winterton-on-Sac. Previously
seen on Norro.
8.00 Walking Through History:
Victoria and Albert's Highland
Fing. Tony Robinson visits the
Cairngorms National Park to
discover how Queen Victoria and
fing. Tony Robinson visits the
Cairngorms National Park to
discover how Queen Victoria
Scottish traditions and built their
fathacy castle at Balmoral. (R)
9.00 Film: The Watch. (2012)
Premiers. A small-town
supermarket manager organises a
neighbour horwarch grup to
suspicious death, but finds the
only recruits he can gather do not
take the job seriously. They soon
face a greater threat than crime
when they uncover a secret alien
invasion going on under their
noses. Sol-fi comedy starring Ben

when they uncover a secret alien invasion going on under their noses. Sci-fi comedy, starring Ben Stiller, Vince Vaughn, Jonah Hill and Richard Ayoade.

11.00 Film: Scary Movie. (2000)
Terrified teenagers go to ridiculous lengths to avoid being slain by a serial killer in a ghost-like mask. Spoof horror, starring Anna Faris, Carmen Electra and Shannon Elizabeth.

12.45 The Last Leu. (R) 1.40 Hollvoaks.

12.45 The Last Leg. (R) 1.40 Hollyoaks. (R) 3.50 You Deserve This House. (R) 4.45 River Cottage Bites. (R) 5.00 Fifteen to One. (R) 5.50 How I Met Your Mother.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninia Turtles. (R) 10.35 Access. 10.45 Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.35 Access. 10.45 Cowboy Builders. (R) 11.40 Cowboy Builders. (R) 11.40 Cowboy Builders. (R) 12.40 Cowboy Builders. (R) 1.35 Film: Columbo: Death Lends a Hand. (1971) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk and Ray Milland. 3.10 The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) 4.05 Sick Note Skivers Exposed. (R) 5.05 Nightmare Tenants. Slum Landlords. (R) 6.55 Co. 10 Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) 4.05 Co. 10 Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) 4.05 Sick Note Skivers Exposed. (R) 5.05 Nightmare Tenants. Slum Landlords. (R) 6.55 Co. 10 Rescuers With Table Market Market.

Nightmare lenants, Slum Landlords, (R)
6.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.
Paul Bohill and Steve Pinner evict
a couple who owe five months'
rent on a flat in an affluent London
suburb, and later hit a snag when
they try to seize a taxi over a
E3,000 debt. (R)

6 55 5 News Weekend

5 News weekenin.

Cricket on 5. England v Australia.

Highlights of the third day's play in
the Second Ashes Test at Lord's.
The home side dominated with the The nome side dominated with the bat on day three in 2013 after captain Alastair Cook decided not to enforce the follow-on, having bowled the tourists out for 128. Yorkshire batsman Joe Root ended the day not out on 178, with lan Bell also passing 50 to leave England in a dominant position on 333/5, a lead of 566 runs. Mark Michales necessed and lea Nicholas presents and also provides commentary alongside Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott and Simon Hughes.

8.00 Deep-Sea Super Predator. Documentary about the search for a mysterious predator that is large enough to hunt down and devour a enough to hunt down and devour a three-metre long great white shark. Plus, a look at the discovery of a bizarre natural phenomenon that, for only a few short weeks each year, sees some of the ocean's most fearsome creatures behave in an unusually aggressive manner (R) 9.00 Transporter: The Series. Frank's

latest job goes awry when he loses his package in a hold-up and is accused by his Russian gangster employer of having embezzled the money. Chris Vance stars.

money. Chris Vance stars.

10.0 Film: The Siege. (1981) An FBI
agent races to stop a terrorist cell
responsible for a series of
bombings while New York is
placed under martal law. Thriller,
starring Denzel Washington and
Bruce Willis. Edited for length.

12.10 Supercision. 3.10 Burglars &
Break-Inis: Caught on Camera. (R) 4.00
Police Interceptors. (R) 4.50 Make It Big.
(R) 5.40 Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear 8.00 Don't Tell the Bride 9.00
Film: Meet the Parents (2000) 10.45 Family
Guy 1.00 People Just Do Nothing 1.30 Some
Girls 3.30 People Just Do Nothing 4.00 Close

Girls 3.30 People Just Do Nothing 9.00 Close
BBC Four
7.00 Pappano's Classical Voices: MezzoSoprano 8.00 Wild Burma: Nature's Lost
Kingdom 9.00 Cordon 10.40 David Bowie
Five Years in the Making of an Icon 12.10 The
Genius of David Bowie 1.10 Top of the Pops:
1909.1 5.8 Wild Burma: Nature's Lost 1980 1.55 Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom 2.55 You've Got a Friend: The Carole King Story 3.55 Close

11.30 Celebrity Catchphrase 12.30 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 1.30 Film: The Flintstones (1994) 3.15 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway 4.45 Film: Peter Pan (2003) 6.55 Film: The Lake House (2006) 9.00 Film: Something Borrowed (2011) 11.15 Film: Batman Returns (1992) (1.45 Fake Reaction 2.20 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 2.45 Teleshopping 5.45 ITV2 Nightscreen

12.40 Jane Evre 2.50 A Touch of Frost 4.55 12.40 Jail Eyre 2.30 A 100cn of 1705t 4.95 Film: Columbo: Troubled Waters (1975) 7.00 Doc Martin 8.00 Midsomer Murders 10.00 Agatha Christie's Marple 12.00 Wire in the Blood 1.30 Doctor at Large 2.20 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping

1TV4
11.05 Pawn Stars 1.00 Tour de France Highlights 2.00 Tour de France Live. Coverage of the 14th stage. 4.30 The Professionals 5.30 Counting Cars 6.00 Storage Wars 7.00 Tour de France Highlights 8.00 The Celebrity Chase 9.00 Boxing: Frampton Live. The build-up to Carl Frampton Live. The build-up to Carl Frampton Live. The build-up to Carl Frampton Live Stage St

E4
11.00 Melissa & Joey 12.00 Baby Daddy
1.00 The Goldbergs 2.00 How! Met Your
Mother 3.00 Film: Black Knight (2001) 5.00
The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: When
Origins: Wolverine (2009) 11.05 Gogglebox
12.40 Rude Tube: Rude Tunes 1.45 Virtually
Famous 2.30 How! Met Your Mother 3.15
Rules of Engagement 4.05 The Cleveland
Show 4.30 Make It or Break It

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Timd 11.00 The Rare Breed (1966) 1.00 School of Rock (2003) 3.15 Ice Age: Continental Drift (2012) 5.00 The Dark Crystal (1982) 6.55 Fletch (1985) 9.00 Welcome to the Punch (2013) 10.55 Silent House (2011) 12.40 Carriers (2009) 2.20 The Love Guru (2008) 4.00 Close

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George MacKay

The Outcast (BBC1, 9,00nm)

The conclusion of Sadie Jones' two-part adaptation of her own best-selling novel of the same name. With his mother's tragic death having set in motion a chain of events that would lead him down a self-destructive path to prison Lewis Aldridge serves his sentence, and resolves to return home to suburban Surrey a changed man. However, despite his intention to amends for the mistakes of his past, the residents of his childhood home might not be so pleased to see him. Coming of age drama, set in the 1950s, starring George MacKay, Daisy Bevan, Jessica Brown Findlay, Finn Elliot, Greg Wise, Frances Jeater, Hattie Morahan and Nathaniel Parker.

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 Sunday Morning Live. Show. 10.00 Sunday Morning Live. 11.00 Sunday Politics. 21.21 Soft: The Open Championship, Hazel Irvine introduces live coverage of the fourth and final day from the Old Course at St. Andrews. where the 144th staging of the Major concludes and the winner is decided. Subsequent programmes are subject to change.

6.50 BBC News

6.50 BBC News.
7.00 Regional Programme.
7.10 Countryfile. The team heads to Northumberland, where Matt Baker meets an artist who has become a keen diver in an effort to better capture on canvas the landscapes that lie beneath the surface of the North Sea.
Together, the pair embark on an underwater exploration near the Fame Islands. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
8.00 Fake or Fortune? Flona Bruce an

for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Fake or Fortune? Fiona Bruce and art expert Philip Mould visit a church in Lancashire, once patronised by Yorkshire's famous Bronte sisters, that is the home of a painting thought to have been produced by an Italian old master. The picture itself is a pieta, an image of the aftermath of Christ's crucifixion, and Philip has a hunch it may be from the Italian it may be from the Italian Renaissance, possibly making this one of the oldest pieces featured in the series so far. On behalf of the church's congregation, Fiona and Philip travel to Italy to compare the Pfillip travel to flaty to compare to Lancastrian pieta with works by old masters Titian and Tintortelto, while back in the UK, Bendor Grosvenor investigates the history of a local aristocrat who is believed to have donated the painting to the church more than 200 years ago.

9.00 The Outcast, Lewis returns home a 9.00 Ine Outcast. Lewis returns nome a changed man following his release from prison, and is determined to make amends for the mistakes of his past. Coming-of-age drama, starring George Mackay.

10.30 BBC News.

10.50 Regional Programme.

10.50 Regional Programme.

11.00 Prized Apart. The five remaining adventurers head to the Moroccan port of Essaouira, where challenges include filling a basket of sardines to a weight of 50kg – without using a measuring aid. (R)

12.00 Don't Tell the Bride. (R) 1.00 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.05 BBC News.

RRC2

6.15 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) 7.00 Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R) 8.00 7.00 Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R) 8.00 Countrylie. (R) 8.55 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites; Weather for the Week Ahead. 10.25 Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites; (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. 11.00 Golf: The Open Championship. 12.15 Live Davis Cup Tennis. 4.15 Songs of Pralse. (R) 4.50 Hair. (R) 2.5 Bill Feland's Wild River: The Mighty Stopper. (P) Shannon. (R)

6.50 Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen: Cracking China. Documentary tracking China. Documentary following the designer on trips to China and Mexico as he tries to launch his company internationally and take advantage of the world's newly emerging middle classes. (R)

middle classes. (H)
7.50 Meet the New Dragons. An
introduction to Touker Suleyman,
Sarah Willingham and Nick,
Jenkins, the three successful
entrepreneurs joining the panel of
Dragons for the show's 13th
series.

8.00 Dragons' Den. A former City accountant sets out her plan to develop a range of Nigerian-inspired snacks, and a businessman from Sheffield pitches his design for a cement-mixer lid.

for a cement-mixer lid.

Odyssey. Odelle wonders if she can trust Colonel Glen as she pays a visit to a secret CIA safe house. Meanwhile, Peter discovers Societal Mining is investigating Joe.

investigating Joe.

9.45 The Javone Prince Show.

New series. The actor pokes fun at the more ridiculous elements of everyday life via stand-up performances, comedy sketches and music.

10.15 Family Guy. Peter and Lois open a cookie store.

cookie store.

10.35 Family Guy. The Griffins visit Italy.

10.55 Family Guy. Stewie and Brian travel back to 17th-century Jamestown, where they encounter many opportunities to alter the course of mankind.

11.20 Film: The Infidel. (2010) O Film: The Intidel. (2010)
A Muslim suffers an identity
crisis on learning his mother was
Jewish, and seeks help in getting
to grips with his heritage.
Comedy, starring Omid Djalili and
Richard Schiff.

1.00 Film: Perfect Creature. (2006) 2.20 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 3.20 Holby City. (R) 4.15 This Is BBC Two.

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! 6.25 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan. (R) 6.25 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.35 Diño Dan. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 7.05 Canimats. (R) 7.04 Canimats. (R) 7.15 Sooty. (R) 7.30 Super 4. (R) 7.45 Fish Hooks. 8.00 Young Justice: Invasion. (R) 8.25 ITV News. 5.30 Weekend. 9.25 The Jeeremy Kyle Show. (R) 10.25 The Jeeremy Kyle Show. (R) 11.25 The Jeeremy Kyl

6.45 Regional Programme; Weather. 7.00 ITV News; Weather.

7.15 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000. Last in the series.

8.00 Surprise Surprise. Dreams come true for a 15-year-old carer from Essex, a woman who set up a charity to help one vulnerable person a

to help one vulnerable person a variety week, a man who formed the week, a man who formed the shomeless football league in Wales.

9.00 Joanna Lumley's Trans-Siberian Adventure. The actress and former model reaches the midway point of her 6,000-mile journey from Hong Kong to Moscow via the Trans-Siberian Railway, taking in the varied sights of Mongola. She spends time with native nomads, and visits a glant statue of Genghis Khan, as well as a gold mine. She also heads to the nation's capital, Ulan Bator, where she tracks down the famous Mongolian throat-singers, before catching a throat-singers, before catching a train bound for Russia. However, making a start on the Siberian leg of her trek proves more difficult than Joanna expects.

to 10 Janna expects.

10.05 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive. The remaining celebrities forage for food in the forest, endure another stormy night and face their most extreme challenge yet—crossing a 200ft ravine one by one on a rope. (R)

11.20 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Julie Goodyear. The actress best known as Coronation Street's Bet Lynch talks candidly about her four marriages and a stint in a psychiatric hospital. (R)

12.15 Jackpot247. 3.00 Motorsport UK. 3.50 ITV Nightscreen. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 6.40 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 7.05 British GT. 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.06 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch 12.30 Jamile and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) 1.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 2.01 The Simpsons. (R) 3.30 The Simpsons. (R) 4.30 Location. (Cation. (R) 5.35 Phil Spencer. Secret Agent. 6.30 Channel 4 News.

5.35 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent.
6.30 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Grand Designs. In the second of four special programmes, Kevin McCloud looks at the challenges of self-building in the UK's most remote places, where beautiful landscapes often meet savage weather. Drawing on footage from 15 years of the programme, as well as new visits to extraordinary and incredible homes, Kevin reveals which designs work best. and incredible homes, Kevin reveals which designs work best, and why. Along the way, he interviews pioneers at the forefront of architecture in the wilderness and sees the astonishing lengths people go to live on the edges of society. (R)

Inve on the edges of society, (H)
London's Lost Graveyard: The
Crossrail Discovery. Documentary
revealing how Crossrail engineers
uncovered a burial site on Liverpool
Street in London, providing an
insight into what life in the capital
was like 300 years ago. Return of
the Black Dath: Secret literon. 8 00 the Black Death: Secret History follows on More4.

ollows on More4.

9.00 Humans. Laura makes a confession that could have incredible consequences for Anita, and while Karen finally tracks down Niska, the runaway synths face a brutal betrayal.

10.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown Jimmy Carr hosts the words-andnumbers panel game, with Sean Lock join by Johnny Vegas, and special guest captain Sarah Millican joining forces with Rob Beckett. (R)

Beckett. (R)

11.05 Film: "I* Complicated. (2009)
A divorced couple are reunited at their son's college graduation after 10 years apart, and begin a secret affair. Romantic comedy, with Meryl Streep and Alec Baldwin.

1.15 Tutankhamun: The Mystery of the Burnt Mummy – Secret History. (R) 2.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.35 Secret Cate (R) 5.30 SuperScriegers (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshakel: Peppa Pig. 6.05
Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 6.20 Angelina
Ballerina. (R) 6.40 Pip Ahoy! (R) 6.45
The Mr Men Show. (R) 6.55 Chole's
Closet. (R) 7.05 Roobarb and Custard
Too. (R) 7.15 Make Way for Noddy. (R)
7.25 Paw Patrol. 7.40 Toby's Travelling
Cirus. (R) 7.50 Little Pricess. (R) 8.05
Wanda and the Alien. (R) 8.15 Zack and
Ouack. (R) 8.25 Milkshaked Monkey. (R)
8.30 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R)
8.45 Jelly Jamm. (R) 9.05 LazyTown. (R)
9.30 Dora and Friends. (R) 10.00
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.05
The Secret Life of Pets. (R) 11.00 Police
Interceptors. (R) 1.00 Police
Interceptors. (R) 1.00 Police
Interceptors. (R) 2.00 Pilim: Jack and the
Beanstalk. (2010) Fantasy adventure,
starring Colin Ford. 3.45 Filim: Madeline. Beanstalk. (2010) Fantasy adventure, starring Colin Ford. 3.45 Film: Madeline. (1998) Children's comedy, with Hatty Jones and Frances McDormand. 5.30 Film: The Emperor's New Groove. (2001) Animated Disney comedy, with the voice of David Spade.

avid Spade.

Cricket on 5. England v Australia.

Action from the fourth day's play in the Second Ashes Test at Lord's.

Mark Nicholas presents and also provides commentary alongside Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey
Boycott and Simon Hughes.

News Mexhand.

7.55 5 News Weekend.

7.33 of news weekenu.
8.00 Police Interceptors Unleashed with Vinnie Jones. The actor introduces clips of high-speed police chases, featuring an off-road runaround, a dirih-driver who crashes his car into a house, and a motorist driving the wrong way up the M6.

9.01 Eliza Pad Dawn (2011)

way up the M6.

9.06 Film: Red Dawn. (2012)
Premiere. The North Korean
military mounts an invasion of the
United States, with a small
Washington state town the first
target for their attack. The local
teenagers form a resistance
movement and carry out a guerrilla
camanian to drive out the campaign to drive out the occupying forces. Remake of the 1980s action adventure, starring Chris Hemsworth.

10.45 Film: Under Siege. (1992) A veteran US Navy Seal working on a battleship as a cook leaps into action to liberate the vessel from

action to increate the vesser non-terrorists. Action adventure, starring Steven Seagal and Tommy Lee Jones. 12.45 Tattoo Disasters UK. (R) 1.15 SuperCasino. 3.10 Under the Dome. (R) 4.00 House Doctor. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 5.45 Angels of Jarm. (R)

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DIGITAL

BBC Three
7, 00 Don't Tell the Bride 8.00 Film: Shrek
(2001) 9.20 Top Gear 10.35 Live at the
Apollo 11.20 Family Guy 12.05 American
Joal 12.25 Family Guy 12.50 People Just
Do Nothing 1.20 Live at the Apollo 2.00
Young, Welsh and Pretty Skint 2.30 Some
Girls 3.30 Parents' Evening 4.00 Close

7.00 Neil Sedaka: King of Song 8.00 Pappano's Classical Voices: Bartones & Basses 9.00 BBC Proms Sunday Symphony 10.30 Imagine – Bette Midler. The Divine Miss M 11.45 Neil Sedaka: King of Song 12.45 Art of Cornwall 2.15 Rock 'n' Roll America 3.15 Close

ITV2

12.05 Take Me Out 1.15 Take Me Out —
The Gossip 2.00 Catchphrase 2.40 Film:
The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants
(2005) 5.00 Film: Back to the Future Part
II (1989) 7.10 Film: Jurassic Park III
(2001) 9.00 Film: Love Actually (2003)
11.40 Film: Batman Returns (1992) 2.05
Life's Funniest Moments 2.30 Teleshopping

1143
12.40 A Touch of Frost 4.50 Film: Death
Becomes Her (1992) 6.55 Wycliffe 8.00
Inspector Morse 10.20 Film: Parenthood
(1989) 12.45 Blue Murder 1.55 Cornwall
with Caroline Quentin 2.45 Man About
the House 3.40 Emmerdale

1TV4
11.00 MotoGP Highlights 12.00 The Cycle Show 1.00 Tour de France Live. Coverage of the 15th stage. 4.30 Storage Wars 5.30 Counting Cars 6.00 BRDC Formula 4 Championship Highlights 7.00 Tour de France Highlights 8.00 Film: Absolute Power (1997) 1.20 Duck Dynasty 2.05 Tour de France Highlights 7.00 Tour de France Highlights 7.00 Tour de France Highlights 7.25 Tiv4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping eleshopping

12.25 Couples Come Dine with Me 2.30 The Goldbergs 3.30 The Big Bang Theory 5.30 The Big Bang Theory F-45 Top 20 8.00 Film: Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008) 10.00 Gogglebox 11.40 Film: Under Siege 2: Dark Territory (1995) 1.45 Tattoo Fixers 2.40 Tattoos After Dark 3.30 Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Distant Drums (1951) 1.00
Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate
Events (2004) 3.00 Dr Seuss' The Lorax
(2012) 4.40 Meet Dave (2008) 6.25 A
Knight's Tale (2001) 9.00 Bad Teacher
(2011) 10.50 The Negotiator (1998) 1.35
Tigerland (2000) 3.45 Close

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FILM CHOICES

Next. Channel 5, 10,55pm

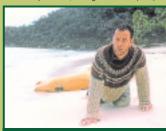
A magician has the ability to see into the immediate future. When intelligence suggests a nuclear attack on Los Angeles is imminent, an FBI counter-terror agent sets out to persuade the gifted individual to use his psychic powers to avert disaster. Thriller, starring Nicolas Cage, Julianne Moore, Jessica Biel and Thomas Kretschmann, (2007)

TUESDAY

Once, BBC1, 11.45pm
A Dublin vacuum cleaner repairman, with a sideline A Bublin Vacuum I dealier legamman, with a sidelin as a busker, and an immigrant Czech pianist struggling to support her family, discover they are kindred spirits and set out to record an album together. Romantic musical drama, starring Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova, (2006)

Audrey's Rain, Channel 5, 3.15pm

An embittered woman who has given up all her own dreams for the sake of her younger siblings finds herself having to bear even more responsibility when her sister commits suicide and leaves her to raise two sense of hope. Drama, starring Jean Smart. (2003)



Cast Away, Friday, BBC1, 11.20pm

Baby Sellers, Channel 5, 3.15pm

The owner of an adoption agency maintains a respectable reputation, while secretly the children she provides to desperate clients are obtained by illegal means. A customs agent develops suspicions about the criminal network behind the trade in kidnapped infants and tries to expose the scandal. Crime drama starring Jennifer Finnigan and Kirstie Alley. (2013)

Cast Away, BBC1, 11.20pm

A manager for an American courier service has to fend for himself when a plane crash leaves him stranded alone on a desert island. Initially panic stricken, he overcomes his terror to survive for four years on his own before building a raft and setting off on an epic journey back home. Adventure drama, starring Tom Hanks, Helen Hunt. (2000)

The life and times of a broadcasting great

rudite. Intellectual. The thinking woman's crumpet. A stripe-shirted guru who interviews the artistic heavyweights.

Melvyn Bragg has been called everything in his time. But it's for something far more basic that he is likely to be remembered, long after the big names of literature have been ticked off his South Bank Show guest list. It's sex. Steamy sex. Raunchy sex. Read-behind-the-bike shed sex. All Bead-behind-the-bike shed sex. All contained in the well-thumbed pages of his highly acclaimed novels which have been known to bring readers as well as the literary world out in a sweat. Remember A Time To Dance, which was serailised on television in 1992? Bragg could barely move for the letters which poured into his office from people who could identify with the steamy shenanigans going on between a middle-aged bank manager and his young lover. And what about Crystal Rooms? It made A Time To Dance seem like Mary Poppins.

But Bragg, now 75, defends those 'meaty bits' by saying: "I write about sex because it's there to be written

about." Adding with relish: "In other people's books it's often salacious or crude. In mine it involves mystery, awe and certain unidentifiable feelings..." But there's more, much more, to Melvyn Bragg's immeasurable talents than a handful of steamy sex scenes.

Three films, a couple of musicals, a best-selling biography of Richard Burton, several more novels, shows on both radio and TV... need he go

Dut Melvyn isn't one to brag (sorry). He doesn't need to. The results of his prolific workload are there for everyone to see, enjoy, and comment on. Yes, even snigger behind the bike sheds. And by all accounts there's plenty more on the way. "If you ask me what I want to be doing in five years' time! would say pretry much what I'm doing now," he remarks.

wriat i'm ooing now," he remarks.

The idea of still being at work at the age of 80 would send shivers down the spine of most people, but you can imagine Bragg still throwing himself into new projects left, right and centre. How does he manage to juggle so many strands seemingly so seamlessly?

"I compartmentalise, and I don't have any hobbies," he reveals. "I was married at 21, and when I started work I had to find the time to write. I had to get up at five in the morning and work at weekend, and I just got into the habit of running that and my day job together.

"Luckily I had a job that I enjoyed,

"Luckily I had a job that I enjoyed, and that gives you energy." Bragg is clearly doing something right because he's about to celebrate 50 years as one of Britain's foremost champions of the arts.

This documentary takes him back to his working class roots in Wigton in Cumbria, and examines how his background has had an influence on his career.

There's also a chance to find out more about his university years, rise to fame and status as a member of the House of Lords.

Plus, an eclectic group of famous faces offer their opinions on Bragg and his work, including Judi Dench, Tony Blair, Grayson Perry, Chris Evans, John Birt and Will Self.



Melvyn Bragg: Wigton to Westminster, Saturday, BBC2, 9.15pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Britain at the Bookies BBC1, 9pm

Betting is big business in Britain - but can high street bookmaker Coral beat the odds and remain a winner in an increasingly crowded market? The first episode in a new series going behind the scenes at the chain heads to Huddersfield. West Yorkshire. where eleven betting shops are currently competing for punters in the town centre, including Coral's Cherrytree branch, which is struggling to hit its targets and has gained an unwelcome reputation for disruptive customers. Manager Tony is the man with difficult job of turning its fortunes around. Meanwhile, at Coral HQ, the marketing team prepare to take a big wager on an online scheme novelty betting specialist Gary works out the odds on a new series of Strictly Come Dancing, and back in Huddersfield, self-confessed compulsive gambler Stuart offers an insight into his life

THESDAY Imagine

BBC1, 10.35pm

The life and work of Man Booker Prize winner Richard Flanagan is examined in Alan Yentob's film. The grandson of illiterates, a school drop-out, a river guide, builder's labourer, and a passionate

campaigner for conservation, the Australian author travels with Yentob through his native
Tasmania. They visit the places that have inspired his novels, and on to Thailand, to see first-hand the site of the Death Railway – the brutal setting of his award-winning novel, The Narrow Road to The Deep

WEDNESDAY Witnesses

Channel 4, 10pm

The broadcaster's last raid across the English Channel resulted in the acquisition of one of the most intriguing dramas of 2014. The Returned was gripping stuff from start to finish, so we have high hopes for their next French foray. Witnesses is set in the northern part of the country, where a man, woman and a teenager have been found murdered. They had no connection to each other, and yet were left posed by their killer as if they were a family. During the investigation detective Sandra Winckler finds a picture of legendary police chief Paul Maisonneuve, who is so baffled by the snapshot that he comes out of retirement to help find

THURSDAY

Real Stories with Ranvir Singh ITV. 7.30pm

New series. Good Morning Britain news presente Ranvir Singh presents this documentary meeting ordinary people involved in extraordinary events that have changed their lives. Each edition features three different individuals, interviewed by Ranvir or reporter Michael Underwood, each of

> Contributors coming up throughout the series include a father-of-two who was saved from being crushed to death under a bus by a crowd of onlookers who rushed to help. a 45-year-old mother awaiting the UK's first

whom has an incredible story to tell.

double hand transplant and a man with dementia at the age of 39. FRIDAY

Weather Terror: Brits Channel 5, 8pm Every year, millions of UK residents jet

holiday, hoping to escape the vagaries of the Britis summer. But what happens if you encounter weather conditions much, much worse than anything you would have experienced back in Blighty? This programme should offer some insights, as it hears from two Brits who found themselves in the Philippines during the most devastating typhoon on record - yet despite their own fears, they still went to the rescue of elderly hotel residents who had become trapped by the rising storm surge. The documentary also features a family whose camping holiday in France ended in them being stranded on the roof of the site's clubhouse for 14 hours, and a student who survived for seven days without food when a hiking trail in Turkey was hit by flash floods.

Live Athletics: Anniversary Games BBC2, 8pm

Jonathan Edwards presents further coverage of the meeting at the Olympic Stadium in London, which marks the third anniversary of the Olympics and also serves at the 11th round of the Diamond League series. Mo Farah is scheduled to compete in the 3.000m, while another British hero from the Games, Jessica Ennis-Hill, is expected to take part in the 100m hurdles. With analysis from Colin Jackson, Paula Radcliffe and Denise Lewis.

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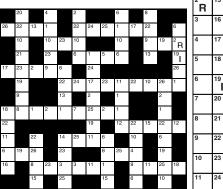
Thinking space

BRAIN GYM

No.334

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

7. I'm a long time

- making a picture (5) 8. I call round on pressing business
- 9. Worker was backward with a
- 10. Healing substitute?
- (5) 12. Big impression that makes the
- headlines (5,5) 15. Main reason why skippers have to toss? (7,3)
- seen on the river (5)
- 19. No cardinal has spoken about the noise (7)
- 21. Discover one has made a call pointless (4,3)
- 22. A girl appears to be wrong (5)

- 1. Measures not intended to be taken seriously? (5,5)
- 2. State I mean to change (5) 3. Restricted areas for
- writers (4) 4. Important person gives an extensive
- lecture (6) 5. Go to pieces and pass a mistake (8)
- 6. Current plan (7) 11. Tom is to blame. perhaps, for an
- 13. Profession that calls for men with high qualifications (8)
- 14. Get lean in order to be graceful (7)
- 16. They may appear to frighten people (6) 17. It is struck by
- forgers (5) 20. Search the bed? (4)

organic change (10)

- 8. Deeds (7)
- 9. Melodious (7)
- 10. Horseman (5) 12. Reconciliation (10)
- 15. Vanishing (10)
- 18. Long (5)
- 19. Unvarying (7)
- 21. Standing work (7)
- 22. Memorise (5)

Quick Clues Across

- 7. Impinge (5) 1. Writing materials (10)
 - 2. Amusina (5)
 - 3. Cook (4) 4. Lozenge (6)

 - 6. Warrior (7)
 - 11. Privacy (10) 13. Regularity (8)
 - 14. Mobile home (7)
 - 16. Support (6)
 - 17. Converging (5)
 - 20. Unoccupied (4)

Sudoku

5 8 8 3 | 9 | 9 2 5 3 8 4 9 4 3 2

Fill in the grid below so that every column every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 United 8 Meduss; 10 Balloon; 11 Unor; 12 Arch; 13 Learn; 17 Mirnie; 18 Ludo; 22 Miror; 23 Evictor; 24 Signal; 25 Notice. Down: 1 Tugboat; 2 Niblick 3 Dermon; 4 Periun; 5 Quire; 6 Tarry; 9 Inherited; 14 Lip-reg; 15 Curtal; 16 Qourmet; 19 Amass 20 Snag; 21 Visor. QUICK - Across: 7 Trophy; 8 Squirm; 10 Respite; 11 Annul; 12 Lure; 13 Ragid; 17 Trut; 18 Tear; 22 Gloom; 23 Tenuous; 24 Extort; 25 Morsel. Down: 1 Startle; 2 Consort; 3 Chair; 4 Squalid; 5 Giant; 6 Ample; 9 Devastate; 14 Primary; 15 Remorse; 16 Bristle; 19 Agree; 20 Booty; 21 Annoy.

Quiz

With which instrument is Jascha Heifetz

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

- 2. How old was Buddy Holly when he
- Which American president was present at the 1945 Yalta conference?
- Who invented the first fully automatic machine gun?
- Of which country is 'Waitangi Day' the national day?
- 6. What was the nickname of landscape gardener Lancelot Brown?
- Which imaginary country features in The Prisoner of Zenda?
- 8. In which year was Shergar stolen? What opened in London's Fleet St. and Bedford St. in 1852?
- 10. Which French chef was known as 'The King of Cooks'?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Admiral Jellicoe: 2 1975: 3 Billy

the Kid; 4 Tasmania; 5 Burmese; 6 Charles

Schulz: 7 Mnachester: 8 Anne Hathaway: 9

New Zealand; 10 Laurel

Niner: RIGHTEOUS

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters

> gives a large plant, gives a flower, 5175462 gives another plant.

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lounge, flame-effect gas fire. There is a breakfast kitchen with gas hob, fridge, freezer, dishwasher, washing machine and dryer, utility, a playroom, four bedrooms (master en suite), bathroom and garden. Call 01902 880888 or visit

























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ove shop. Gas central heating, part double glazing, loun ted breakfast kitchen, 1 bedroom, bathroom with show









en with white goods, family bathroom with sh



tchen, double bedroom, bathroom with shower, commun



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EXTENDED & REFURBISHED home with NO UPWARD CHAIN. 26ft lounge diner leading to EXTENDED & FITTED 22ft breakfast kitchen. Benefits from d/s WC & utility room. 3 bedrooms & REFITTED family bothroom. Garage & LARGE driveway. Extensive lawn rear garden. GCH & UPVC DG. EPC rating: D Ref: D1652

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QUINTON

£250,000



BIRCH DRIVE, HALESOWEN

NO UPWARD CHAIN - DETACHED bungalow with 2 DOUBLE bedrooms in cul-de-sac. Having EN-SUITE WC and REFITTED shower room. 17ft lounge & UPVC conservatory. 13ft kirchen & UPVC veranda to rear leading to GARAGE. GCH & UPVC DG. EPC rating: D. Ref: D1651



REFURBISHED & EXTENDED home. Having 2 reception rooms & EXTENDED refitted 14ft breakfast kitchen. 3 bedrooms & REFITTED shower room. DRIVEWAY & garage to front. Garden with private aspect to rear. GCH & UPVC DG. EPC rating: TBC Ref: D1648



NO UPWARD CHAIN - MODERN 3 bed home with fitted kitchen & lounge diner to rear. Master bedroom with EN-SUITE, 2 further beds & family bathroom. DRIVEWAY & gardens. EPC B. BEARWOOD OFFICE

£180,000 BEARWOOD



FRANCIS ROAD, SMETHWICK

SPACIOUS, 2 DOUBLE bed end terraced property, conveniently situated, requiring internal inspection, having majority DG, CEntrance vestibule, attractive lounge, breakfast kitchen, D/S WC, UPSTAIRS bathroom, and pleasant well maintained rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC F.

BEAFWOOD



An opportunity to acquire a deceptively spacious, well presented and thoughtfully improved home. Attractive dining/sitting room, delightful lounge, kitchen, re-fitted shower room, 2 good sized double bedrooms, and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE.

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QUINTON



SPACIOUS 1st floor flat with 2 DOUBLE bedrooms in pleasant tree lined road. NO UPWARD CHAIN. 15ft lounge to front, REFITTED 11ft breakfast kitchen to rear with SEPARATE utility room. Fitted bathroom with white suite. GCH & majority UPVC DG. EPC rating: C Ref: D1653





Genuinely helpful.





HALESOWEN | £300,000

- \bullet Period Detached Property EPC Rating E
- Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Family Bathroom
 Detached Garage Driveway Rear Garden

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- 2 Recp Room D/stairs Bed and Bathroom
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 Large Drive To Front Garden To Rear



OLDBURY | £190,000

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 Two Recp Rooms Kitchen Cloaks W/c

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 Drive Front & Rear Gardens Rear Garage

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OLDBURY | £180,000

- Extended Semi Detached Awaiting EPC
 Lounge/Diner Ext Kitchen Cloaks W/c
- Three Bedrooms Family Bathroom W/c
 Side Garage Drive Large Rear Garden

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QUINTON | £170,000

- Semi Detached Awaiting EPC RatingSpacious Lounge Fitted Kitchen W/c

- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
 Drive Rear Garden Dbl Garage To Rear

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QUINTON | £170,000

- Semi Detched Property EPC Rating F
- Through Lounge Diner Open Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c.
- Off Road Parking Rear Garden

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OLDBURY | £115,000

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• Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating C

Lounge Kitchen Diner Side Passage
 Three Bedrooms Bathroom Sep W/c

• Front & Rear Gdn's No Upward Chain

NEW



BARTLEY GREEN | £130,000

- Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating C
- Lounge Dining Room Breakfast Kitchen
 Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
 Drive To Front Garden To The Rear

SIMILAR PROPERTIES

REQUIRED

BARTLEY GREEN | £110,000

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- Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating C

- Lounge Kitchen/Diner Conservatory
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OLDBURY | £125,000

- Property Recently Refurbished



- Modern Style Detached EPC Rating E
- Lounge-Dining Room Kitchen
 Three Bedrooms Bathroom Separate W/c
- Front Garden Garage & Garden To Rear



OLDBURY | £104,950

- Semi Detached Property EPC Rating E
- Two Reception Areas Kitchen W/o
- Three Bedrooms Shower Room W/c W/c
- Gardens To The Front and Rear

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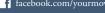


BARTLEY GREEN | £650

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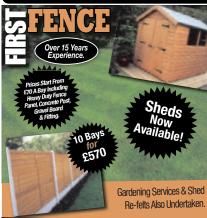


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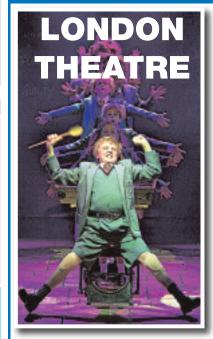
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1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.

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3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers

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Thursday, July 16,

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0795/165214/01902 540434.
NISSAN MICRA, 2008, 3 door, hatchback, 1.4, 73,888 miles, blue, electric windows, MoT June 29, 2016, CD. £2,400 ono. 07850 462521.

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£3.500 one.
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Telephone 07445 709081

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RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE silver, 1.4, MoT'd, AC, 07 plate, £1,195. 07720 961929.

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RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC

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alarm, 10 months MoT, alloys,
CD, good clean condition,
drives well.
£1,250 ono.
01902 887215.

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personal

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LADY, EARLY 60S
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gentlemen, 58-68 for Friendship, possibly more.
Dudley area.
Photo appreciated.
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SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROLIGH COLINCIL The Borough Council of Sandwell (Grainger's Lane, Cradley Boad, St Annes's Boad,

High Street, Cradley Heath) (Temporary Road Closures) Order 2015, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along the following roads in Cradley Heath: 1) Grainger's Lane - High Street to Station Street (anticipated dates 20/07/15 - 27/07/15). 2) Cradley Road - Graingers Lane to Station Street (anticipated dates 28/07/15 - 08/08/15). 3) St Anne's Road - High Street to Foxoak Street (anticipated dates 09/08/15 - 18/08/15). The prohibition of right turning into St Anne's Road out of Lower High Street (A4100) and the prohibition of left turning out of St Anne's Road into Lower High Street (A4100) will remain operational throughout the duration of the works. 4) High Street - St Anne's Road to the eastern boundary of No.97a High Street (anticipated dates 19/08/15 - 12/10/15). The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 12/10/15, effective from 20/07/15. Traffic will be diverted as follows: a) For Grainger's Lane via Cradley Road, Station Street and vice-versa. b) For Cradley Road via Grainger's Lane, Station Street and vice versa. c) For St Anne's Road via Lower High Street and via Foxoak Street, Newtown Lane, High Street and vice-versa. d) For High Street - via St Anne's Road, Foxoak Street, Newtown Lane and vice-versa. Purpose - gas main replacement by Balfour Beatty for National Grid Gas.

ClassifiedAds

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Black hair, brown eyes and
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Loving, kind, caring, sincere,
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Are now recruiting Mid Field
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general

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Theatre Showstopper from £229.95

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Exclusivity is guaranteed

By Sharon Walters

Exclusivity is guaranteed with the new Kia Sportage Axis Edition, a limited-run model of which only 1.200 will be made.

The Sportage 'Axis Edition' has been styled and equipped to provide retail and fleet customers with many of the features of a high-grade Sportage for mid-range price, starting from just £20,995 on the road from this week

It will be available with a choice of two powertrains and four colours. The engines are the 1.6-litre GDi direct-injection petrol unit developing 133bhp and 165Nm of torque, or the advanced 1.7-litre common-rail turbodiesel which develops 114bhp and 260Nm Both are front-wheeldrive models with a six-speed manual trans mission linked to Kia's Intelligent Stop & Go engine stop-start system to save fuel and eliminate emissions when idling in traffic.

The standard colour is solid Arctic White, but buyers are able to opt for one of three metallic finishes - Phantom Black, Fusion White or Dark Gun Metal - for £525.

The Sportage 'Axis Edition' models sit between trim grades '2' and '3' in the range, but include many of the features found even higher in the line-up plus a number of SUV finishing touches, including roof rails as standard. The black gloss arrow mesh radiator grille with chrome surround LED daytime running lamps and rear LED combination lamps and the roof-mounted 'shark's fin' antenna deliver a premium look. Automatic headlight control is included in the lighting package, and the 'Axis Edition'

models are fitted with electric folding door mirrors with LED indicators

The interior is upholstered in unique black leather with contrasting grey Dinamica® microfiber inserts. This is complemented by the light grey door inserts unique to the 'Axis Edition' models. The front and outer rear seats incorporate heater elements. The premium look of the interior is enhanced by black headlining, black B and C pillar coverings and black sun visors, grab handles and map light switches. Privacy glass and an auto-dimming rear-view mirror are other luxury flourishes fitted as standard.

The lavish specification includes a sev en-speaker Infinity® high-end sound system incorporating a subwoofer and external amp. This includes an AM/FM radio, CD player, USB and AUX sockets and iPod connectivity.
Bluetooth music streaming and hands-free phone operation are also supported, with voice control in any of 10 languages.

The Axis Edition models also come with a seven-inch touchscreen satellite navigation system including full UK postcode recognition and European mapping for 44 countries. The system includes TMC traffic messaging with a detour function, motorway junction views, lane guidance and a speed limit alert. It allows the driver to input quick, short and economy routes. A reversing camera with views displayed in the touchscreen is an additional useful feature built into the system.

The 1.6-litre GDi engine makes it possible to increase power and torque levels while reducing fuel consumption and CO2 emissions. Typically, a GDi engine will deliver seven per cent more torque at low engine revo-lutions and 12 per cent more torque at high rpm than a conventional engine of similar capacity - and with fuel economy improvement of about 10 per cent.



'As with every Kia, the **Sportage Axis models** come with a unique in the UK seven year or 100,000 mile warranty.'

A fine mist of petrol is injected directly into each of the four cylinders at up to 135 bar in minutely precise quantities and with millisecond timing to ensure the Sportage uses only as much fuel as it needs, exactly when it needs it. The result is highly efficient combustion that ensures excellent performance with low fuel consumption and emissions.

The 1.7-litre turbodiesel is part of the U2 family. Developing 114bhp at 4,000rpm and 260Nm (192lb/ft) of torque at 1,250 - 2,750rpm, it has been crafted for optimum driveability in European conditions. More

than 90 per cent of maximum torque is available from just 2,000rpm. Performance is similar to that of the 1.6-litre petrol version, with a maximum speed of 107mph and 0-60mph acceleration in 11.9 seconds, while combined fuel economy is 54.4mpg and CO2 emissions are 135g/km.

As with every Kia, the Sportage Axis Edition models come with a unique in the UK seven-year or 100,000 mile warranty, subject to certain wear and tear conditions. It is fully transferable should the car be sold before the time or mileage limits have been



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Official Fuel Consumption Figures for the Suzuki Celerio range mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km): Urban 55.3-68.9 (5.3-4.1), Extra Urban 76.3-83.0 (3.7-3.4), Combined 65.7-78.4 (4.3-3.6), CO₂ emissions 99-84 g/km.



HR-V promises a lot

pact crossover will be priced from £17,995 on-the-road for the entry-level S grade petrol model, rising to £24,945 for the flagship EX diesel.

For those seeking finance packages, competitive PCP options for the dynamic and distinctive new Honda are expected to start from £149 per month 5.9 per cent APR with a 30 per cent deposit, bringing great affordability to the small crossover segment.

The all-new HR-V blends characterful

coupé looks merged with the tough, solid stance of a robust SUV. Inside, occupants will find class-leading boot space. Thanks to innovative packaging, the HR-V's has exceptional versatility incorporating Honda's highly practical Magic Seats system, allowing for numerous loading configurations.

Buyers opting for the base-grade S mod-el are well catered for, with convenience features such as climate control, cruise control and dusk-sensing automatic headlamps fitted as standard.

The mid-grade SE model adds a range of premium features, including rain sensing wipers, front and rear parking sensors and a six-speaker audio upgrade. A 'Smart Touch' interior includes touch panel con-

router interior includes outer panel controls for the dual-zone climate control.

Customers choosing the top-grade EX model will appreciate a full leather interior, smart entry and start, and rear-view camera. The sense of HR-V's spaciousness is amplified with the unique-in-class, tilt-and-slide opening panoramic glass sunroof. Styling is

enhanced with 17-inch alloy wheels.

Customers opting for the SE or EX models will also benefit from the Honda Connect in-car infotainment system as standard. This Android-based system features an app-based 'pinch, swipe and tap' interface accessed on a seven-inch touchscreen in the centre of the dash.

Honda Connect comes with pre-installed apps, with others available for download These give rapid access to internet-based services such as web browsing, real-time traffic information, news and weather, social media, and internet music stations. Integrated Garmin navigation is standard on EX and is available as an option on SE models.

Designed and engineered to achieve a five-star Euro NCAP rating, every new HR-V sold in Europe will be equipped with Hon-da's City-Brake Active System as standard. SE or EX models will feature Honda's Advanced Driver Assist System, which uses radar sensors, plus forward- and rear-facing cameras. This comprehensive suite of active safety technologies includes Forward Collision Warning, Traffic Sign Recognition, Intelligent Speed Limiter, Lane Departure Warn-

ing and High-beam Support System.

The HR-V boasts an engaging drive coupled with efficient performance, thanks to a choice of all-new 130 PS 1.5 litre i-VTEC petrol and 120 PS 1.6 litre i-DTEC diesel engines. Combined with either a six-speed manual gearbox or a newly developed CVT (for petrol models only), emissions are as low as 104 g/km of CO2. The CVT's driveability is given a more natural 'multi-gear' feel through the use of new control software exclusive to Europe which simulates seven speeds with

optimised gear change mapping.

Leon Brannan, head of cars at Honda UK, said: "16 years after the original HR-V, Honda is returning to the crossover segment it pioneered with the exceptionally spacious, versatile and technologically advanced HR-V. With highly competitive list prices, we are expecting huge demand for the all-new HR-V. HR-V signals the third of five new and refreshed models for the brand this year. We're confident the HR-V will further broaden the appeal of the Honda brand amongst a wide range of car buyers.



Vauxhall bringing OnStar to the UK

in-car telematics system, to the UK this summer, which includes a high-speed 4G mobile network, emergency response notification and stolen vehicle recovery technology.

The system will be free for customers for the first year, and will be available in selected models in Vauxhall's passenger car range from August.

Debuting at the 2015 Frankfurt Motor Show in September, the first all-new Vauxhall to get OnStar will be the British-built Astra, which will arrive in UK showrooms in

Based in Luton, OnStar's European head-quarters is set to open for business this summer. Globally, OnStar already serves around seven million customers in the United States, Canada, China and Mexico,

As well as the United Kingdom, OnStar will be available in 13 other markets across

Commenting on the programme rollout, Tim Tozer, Vauxhall's chairman and manag-ing director, said: "With OnStar, Vauxhall is bringing the latest connectivity technology

to a wider audience.

"OnStar will make driving safer as well as

Vauxhall is bringing OnStar, its offering new innovations in infotainment and

"And best of all, the system will be free to customers for the first year of ownership,

If an airbag deplovs. OnStar will be alerted automatically and an advisor will then contact the vehicle to determine whether help is required. If there is no response, emergency services are requested.

Available 24/7 and 365 days a year, On-

Star advisors are located at the OnStar ser vice centre in Luton.

At a push of an SOS button, OnStar users can request assistance whenever they deem it necessary, for example, if they witness an accident. The new system also includes a roadside assistance service to cover break

OnStar will be able to assist vehicle owners and police if a vehicle with the system is stolen. Remote ignition block will allow On-Star to send a remote signal to the vehicle that blocks the engine from starting once it has been reported stolen.

And, in a bid to make fault diagnosis easier. OnStar can provide subscribers with a

monthly vehicle diagnostics email.

A check can be requested at any time at the push of a button, providing peace of mind before setting off on a longer journey, for example.



BRIEFING

• The Celerio, Suzuki's latest global compact citycar went on sale in the UK in February and more than 3,000 have been delivered to date. To add further choice and value for customers, Suzuki has now introduced a new SZ2 derivative priced at just £6,999 which now completes a five-model line-up in the range consisting of SZ2, SZ3, SZ3 Dualjet, SZ4 and SZ4 with Auto Gear Shift (AGS). Although priced at £1,000 below the SZ3 model, standard specification highlights for the new SZ2 is comprehensive and includes six airbags (driver, passenger, side and curtain), electric front windows, central locking, ESP (a registered trade-mark of Daimler AG) and DAB radio with CD Tuner. Suzuki is well known as the small car expert and Celerio has retained its trademark compact car ease of drive while providing an elevated driving position, interior space which surpasses most conventional A-segment cars, and also a class-leading luggage capacity of 254 li-







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Fuel consumption figures for the Honda range in mpg (L/100km): Urban Cycle 23.2 – 70.6 (12.2 – 4.0), Extra Urban 40.4 – 85.6 (7.0 – 3.3), Combined 32.5 – 78.5 (8.7 – 3.6). CO₂ emissions 201 – 94g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

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DRIVETIME



Peugeot 2008 Special Edition Ur-

Following success of Peugeot's 2008 Crossover, a new special edition is announced for 2015 the 2008 Urban Cross, now available to order and priced from £16,495.

Based on the Active badge level, but benefiting from enhanced specifica-

tion, the 2008 Urban Cross is available in either the 1.2-litre PureTech 110hp S&S (Stop & Start) with 108g/km of CO2 or 1.6-litre BlueHDi 100hp S&S with 95g/km of CO2 emissions.

The main focus of 2008 Urban Cross is the strong exterior and interior

styling, noticeably with a new and exclusive metallic Emerald paint col-

The vehicle also features 17in alloy

wheels and Grip Control as standard, along with rear Parking Aid and elec-tric, heated and folding door mirrors. Black door mirrors also add to the

distinctive exterior styling.

The Urban Cross premium trim, with emerald stitching, is complemented by the leather steering wheel and gear-knob, with emerald contrast stitching to further enhance the appeal of the

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 12.7 (22.3) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 23.9 (11.8) - 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 88.3 (3.2). CO₂ emissions: 373 - 85g/km.#

bring back winning ways for Heathens

DEADLY duo Max Clegg and El-lis Perks both struck magnificent maximums to lead Cradley back to winning ways with a convincing 59-33 triumph over Stoke at Perry

Barr.

Having suffered back-to-back defeats for the first time since 2011, the Heathens got their bid for an unprecedented third successive National League title back on track with a dominant display against the Potters.

The all-action Perks was in scin-

The all-action Perks was in scin-tillating form as he dropped back to reserve, recording his first ever paid maximum from seven rides. His night got off to a difficult start as he touched the tapes in

start as he touched the tapes in his opening ride - yet he made a mockery of his 15-metre handicap to storm to the front and take the chequered flag.

It was Perks who nullified Stoke's tactical ride bid as he squeezed around the outside of former Heathens' favourite Jon Armstrong in dramatic fashion as he went for double points in heat five.

five.
Skipper Max Clegg and the inform Matt Williamson were also

form Matt Williamson were also in superb form in the heat leader positions as the trio accounted for all 15 race wins to overpower the struggling Potters.

No.1 Clegg got the Heathens off to the perfect start as he led a 5-1. CRADLEY 59: Ellis Perks 20+1, Max Clegg 15, Matt Williamson 14, Arron Mogridge 8+4, Tyler Govier 2, Adam Extance 0, Nathan Greaves R/R

STOKE 33: Lee Payne 9, Danny Phillips 7+1, Jon Armstrong 7, Ryan Terry-Daley 4+2, Shauu Tedham 4+1, Paul Burnett 2+2, Chris Widman R/R

Good form continues for The George

Warwick & Worcester Alliance
Division 1
The George 243 Great Barr 156
THE George Alliance side continued their recent run of good form with an 87 shot home win against second placed Great Barr.
Two winners in the first four, Bill Chiswell (21-10) and Terry Cadman (21-15) gave The George an eight-shot advantage.
Wins in the middle four by Dave James (21-7), John Deakin (21-8), Steve Wyton (21-10) and Robert Hopwood (21-11) built up the lead to 56 shots.

Hopwood (21-11) built up the lead to 56 shots. The back four completed victory with Will Freeman (21-9), Terry Williams (21-13), Lee Dicken (21-14) and Dave Hill (21-17) all winning. Warwick & Worcester Premier 1: Royal Oak 245 The George 203 (Stewart Meddings 21-16)

Deadly due We won't be held to ransom — Pulis

TONY Pulis has warned QPR that Albion will not cave in to their demands over a trio of potential transfer targets.

The Baggies boss sent out a clear message to the Loftus Road hierarchy that Hawthorns officials will not be held to ransom over Matt Phillips, Charlie Austin and Steven Caulker.

Albion have held extensive talks in a bid to broker a deal for winger Phillips with an initial offer worth around £5m rejected, with Rangers valuing the for-

around 25in rejected, with Rangers valuing the for-mer Blackpool man at £10m.

Pulis has also entered talks over Austin, who is rated as a £15m striker by QPR, while they have enquired about centre-back Caulker, who could yet

Speaking for the first time about the QPR players at the team's pre-season camp in Florida, Pulis said: "We fancy Phillips.

"We fancy a couple of players at QPR but we've got to make sure if we're signing these players they are value for money.

"At the moment the market out there has gone crazy and you have to buy into things but you have to be sensible as well. "We've got numerous targets and we will keep trying to do them, but you have to understand that we have to do good business for the club financially.

"We're not Manchester City, who will go out and pay £49m for a player and that's the end of it.
"We can't do that, we have to have a list of players and if people are unrealistic and ask to much, we have to move on and find people who are realistic and people who want to play for this club." Pulis's men play the first of their three friendlies in the United States when they take on Orlando City SC in the Cityus Powl

SC in the Citrus Bowl.

Striker Saido Berahino is set to be rested despite resuming full training following his summer knee injury. Albion will take no chances with Orlando's artificial pitch so other players with a history of injury could sit the game out.

Harriers turn out to honour Andy

HUNDREDS of Tipton Harriers and fellow athletes celebrated the life of long-standing coach and club legend Andy Holden, who died two years

ago.
The Andy Holden Memorial 5, was a fivemile race for senior athletes and a shorter 2k run for juniors at Coneygre Communi-ty Centre – near the club's Tipton Sports

ty Centre – near the club's Theren Cross-Academy home.

The race was sponsored by local firm Holden's Brewery – the Dudley company's managing director, Jonathan Holden, took part in the race with the brewery also donating

with the brewery also donating bottles of special beer to each entrant.

Andy's sons, Joe, Mike and Tom, all entered the race, while widow Paula and daughter Charley were on hand lending their support.

Jonathan Holden, son of Holden's Brewery founder Edwin who was Andy Holden's running partner, finished the race in 98th from 128 entrants in the senior division.

Crisis

He said: "My father was a very keen runner some years ago. I took it up a couple of years ago on the back of a mid-life crisis and I am enjoying

it.
"It's a lovely gesture from the club, he was a very popular chap.
"He is very well respected by the club and he was a very close friend to my dad." Andy's son, Tom who still coaches youngsters at the Harri-

ers, came second.

He completed the run in just under 27 min-

He completed the run in just under 27 minutes, while his brothers Joe and Mike came home in 43rd and 107th respectively.

Tom said: "I'm really pleased as I'm more of a short-distance runner over 800 and 1,500m.

"So I'm a little bit surprised. Despite quite a bit of training recently I've been concentrating on the shorter stuff.

"It was a really good turnout. The weather was brilliant which helped.

Harriers president Ron Bentley described Andy as the greatest club man Tipton has ever

Andy as the greatest club man Tipton has ever

Andy competed at the 1970 Commonwealth Games, the European Championships in 1971 and the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich.

Pool pair picked to perform



Brittany Horton, aged 16, right, from Brierley Hill and Chloe Finch, 17, from Rowley Regis

Chloe Finch, from Rowley Regis, has been picked to represent Great Britain at the FINA World Junior Swimming Championships in Sin-gapore next month while Brittany Horton, from Brierley Hill, has been called up by England for the Commonwealth Youth Games in

TWO Black Country swimming Samoa in September. Both girls, aces are being backed to shine on the international stage this sumfor City of Birmingham Swimming Club and their coach Carl Grosvenor said: "I think both are capable of winning medals. "Australia will be very strong at

the Commonwealth Games and at the World Junior Championships you will also have the Americans, the Chinese and the Japanese who will also be strong. "They will face

world class opposition but both Chloe and Brittany will be going there to win medals and they are

definitely capable of it.

"Chloe is ranked second in the world in her age group for the 800m freestyle while Brittany is ranked fifth for the 200m back stroke."

Chloe and Brittany join a grow-ing line of internationals at the

Swimmers share the spoils from meeting

SWIMMERS from Halesowen Swimming Club travelled to Ches-lyn Hay for the third round of the Mercian Summer League at the weekend.

The meeting proved to be an exciting competition which produced a great atmosphere and saw members of the club come away with a share of the spoils.

share of the spoils.

Halesowen's swimming team started well and following 10 races they were in second position with Blythe Barracudas holding the top spot with everything to swim for.

After 30 races Lichfield had nudged ahead with Halesowen keeping the field with joint second place. In the last 10 races Halesowen

pulled all the stops out and made one final push and finished joint first with Blythe Barracudas.

Star of the show and double event winner was Jakob Baker in the butterfly and breastroke.

Other individual event winners who did the Halesowen club proud were Jacob Bailey in the backtroke, Natasha Bird in the butterfly, and India Hanke and Zach Collins who was in the freestyle.

The hows open relay team

The boys open relay team proved they were unbeatable and triumphed in both the medley and the freestyle relays and included Sam Bradley-Wood, Nigel Gaskin and Daniel Hill.

and Daniel Hill.

A special mention goes to Halesowen's Masters swimmers who supported the team in all three rounds and were Julie Everton, Nigel Gaskin and Tracey Worton.

Final scores were: Halesower 192, Blythe Barracudas 192, Lich field 186, Wombourne 169, Northgate 150, Orion 150.

Yacob pens a new deal with Albion

MIDFIELDER Claudio Yacob has handed Tony Pulis a major boost by penning a new two-year contract at

penning a new two-year contract at Albion.

The 27-year-old signed the deal after flying home from the club's pre-season training camp in Austria.

Yacob has made 85 appearances for the Baggies since joining from Racing Club three years ago.

Albion had already activated a one-year option to keep him for next season but have now extended his contract for a further 12 months.

Yacob had fallen down the pecking order under former boss Alan Irvine.

Irvine.

Director of football administration Richard Garlick said: "Everybody saw Claudio's contribution to
the team, particularly over the second half of last season."



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Harriers honour club legend Andy Page 39

Pool pair picked to perform Page 39

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Takeover deal is dead, says Sherwood

RANDY Lerner is set to remain Villa owner for the foreseeable future after manager Tim Sherwood pronounced takeover talks "dead".

The American was thought close to a £150million sale of the club, with reports last month an unnamed prospective buyer had been granted exclusivity.

But this week Sherwood put an end to weeks of speculation when he claimed talks have since broken down.

"I think it's dead now to be honest," said Sherwood.

"It was fairly live but I think the people who were talking are now not there.

"The chairman is picking it up and running with it now. I'm not sure if anyone is too close now. Until it's done it's never there" never there.

Lerner, who purchased Villa in 2006, has been keen to sell for more than a year. In May, he gave a wide-ranging interview in which he admitted he had done "not nearly enough right" and yowed to stand down as chairman by the start of the season if a buyer could not be found. be found.

Whether the 53-year-old will indeed now take a back seat remains to be seen after Sherwood confirmed by as Lerner who sanctioned last week's Eymillion signing of Idrissa Gueye from Lille. It was the highest fee the slub bare

signing of Idrissa Gueye from Lille.

It was the highest fee the club have paid for four years but Villa are set to quickly match it with the purchase of 21-year-old full-back Jordan Amavi from Lille.

"Randy is the one who is making the decisions regarding the players," Sherwood said. "He is willing to back us to the hilt. But he can only back us to the tune of financial fair play. That means there might have to be some exits from the club."

Mystery as former Wolves star Bakary drops off the radar

IT'S a transfer saga that has rumbled on

IT'S a transfer saga that has rumbled on all summer.

But it seems that no-one has any idea where Bakary Sako's future lies – or even where he is.

Wolves head coach Kenny Jackett was none the wiser when asked what the Sako latest was.

The winger is now a free agent with his Wolves contract having expired with his Wolves contract having expired.

The winger is now a free agent which is Wolves contract having expired, with Albion and Villa among those linked with signing him.

Jackett said: "There was rumours he was coming last week to Clairefontaine, but I didn't see him. I think we left him some tickets on the door

some tickets on the door
"So I don't know, you hear different
things but I haven't read or seen or
heard that he's signed for anybody.
"I presume he's still got options but I
don't know what those options are.
"I only really know what I've seen in
the media. There have been a lot of clubs
previously linked with him but it seems
to have gone quiet lately.
"Erom inside the dub. I don't know
"Erom inside the dub. I don't know

"From inside the club, I don't know, I haven't seen him." Turkish side Bur-saspor arethought to be chasing Sako.

New skipper happy with performance

tribute to his side after seeing them secure a win-ning draw against promotion chasing Tamworth.

Taking charge of the team for the first time, Brooker hailed a solid performance and fine debut for new signing Ed Kilbee who hit a century along with keeper Wes Griffiths.

And Brooker's predecessor as skipper, Faisal Shahid, shone with the ball as he notched five wickets.

But in all too familiar fashion, the early Halesowen wickets tumbled early on.

Stebbings (10), Moseley (2), Shahid (9) and Gabriel (9) all fell cheaply and they were wobbling

at 80-4 when Griffiths joined Kilbee, then on 46.

Kilbee reached his century first but was happy to rotate the strike to allow Griffiths to play his natural game and whose ton was scored at better than a run a ball.

Both fell in quick succession but by then the damage was done. Will Barrett's cameo of 30 not out at the end boosting Halesowen's total to 295-6 from their allotted 50 overs.

The Tamworth reply had a more solid look

Coming to the crease after the fall of the first wicket Flower also scored at better than a run a ball and Tamworth looked in with a chance of

victory as the game entered the final phase.

The wickets of Maddox (54) and overseas start van Deventer (9) were crucial as the Tamworth innings just ran out of steam at the death.

This Saturday the first XI travel to Penkridge with the game starting at noon.

Whiley wins Wimbledon final again

JORDANNE Whiley successfully defended her Wimbledon title as she and playing partner Yui Kamiji won the wheelchair doubles final.

The pair beat Dutch duo Jiske Griffioen and Aniek Van Koot 6-2 5-7

6-3.
Briton Whiley, 23, and Japanese Kamiji, 21, have now won six Grand Slams

iji, 21, have how win six Grand Stains out of seven.

Top seeds Whiley and Kamiji beat the British-German partnership of Louise Hunt and Katharina Kruger 6-0, 6-3 to get to Sunday's title decider for the third year in a row

After her match. Whiley went on to so-After her match, Whiley went on to so-cial media to relay the good news tweet-ing: "We are Wimbledon champions for the second year running!" Whiley and Kamiji, who won the cal-endar Grand Slam in 2014, sped through

the opening set of their semi-final, but both were broken at the start of the second set as Hunt and Kruger took a 3-1

lead.

However, with Hunt making her Grand Slam debut, the experience of the five-time Grand Slam champions even-

five-time Grand Slam champions eventually came though as they completed their victory.

"It's always great to be back at Wimbledon and no match is easy here. We've been working a lot on some different stuff in training and I think it paid off today and we're really excited for the final," said doubles world No.2 Whiley, who won bronze in the London 2012 Paralympic doubles event.
"Tve been working on my serve and

"I've been working on my serve and although I had one game which went off a little bit I was proud of myself that I was able to find my rhythm again so hopefully.
"Coming back to Wimbledon is great,

YELTZ SHUTOUT RBY RIVALS

Cradley 0 Halesowen 3

HALESOWEN kicked off their pre-season campaign with a well-deserved victory over Black Country neighbours Cradley Town.

A host of new faces featured in the Yeltz side, and it included the experienced trio of Anthony Charles, Mike

Taylor and Greg Pearson.
The first half was a dull affair between the sides, both having a handful of chances at goal however the half remained scoreless as the sides

nowever the nair remained scoreless as the sides looked to get on the scoreboard first. An effort from Ex-Yeltzman Aaron Lloyd came closest for Cradley in the opening stages as his attempted shot just flew wide of the post. The for Halesowen Joe Hull made an attempt

on goal but his header was well saved by the Cra-dley keeper to deny him breaking the deadlock before the half time whistle.

The second half proved to be a completely dif-ferent affair as the Yeltz dominated the play.

Deadlock

Greg Pearson had two chances early on, but both were saved well.

However, Halesowen broke the deadlock on 68 minutes as Ashley Parsons-Smith hit an inviting cross into the box and it was Pearson who managed to hit the ball first time straight into the net to give the Yeltz the lead.

Halesowen doubled their lead on 75 minutes, as Connor Collins was comfortably able to get his head to the ball and direct it straight into the net, thanks to a Parsons-Smith cross once again.

nead to the bail and direct it straight into the net, thanks to a Parsons-Smith cross once again. The game was put out of reach on 84 minutes with Mike Taylor grabbing his first goal for the club with a powerful volley that flew under the keeper and straight into the net to put the Yeltz these goals about part to give those week of the control of the control of the second of th three goals ahead and to give them a comfortable

three goals ahead and to give them a comfortable margin of victory.

Halesowen continue their pre-season at Sporting Khalsa on Friday evening.

Halesowen: Trialist, Ashley Parsons-Smith, Trialist (Isaac Cooper), Trialist (Trialist), Joe Hull (Trialist), Anthony Charles (Asa Charlton), Trialist, Danny Bragoli, Greg Pearson (Connor Collins), Mike Taylor (Trialist), Aaron Griffiths.

Baggies earn some time off



Albion's players enjoying an afternoon off on the first day of their American tour

The Baggies have gone Stateside and were due to train twice on the first day of their trip to Orlando, but after impressing during a 7am session were given the rest of the day off by Tony Pulis.

Tony Pulis.

It then arranged for the team to take an outing to Universal Studios theme park.

However, Midfielder Craig Gardner has his mind on the coming pre-season game saying Albion's players will get a buzz from facing Brazilian ace Kaka in Orlando.

The former AC Milan and Real Madrid playmaker is the star attraction in the Orlando City SC side who will host the Baggies at the Citrus Bowl.

Gardner says Tony Pulis's men will relish the chance to face the 33-year-old.

"We want to get fitness and sharpness but we also want to enjoy it," said Gardner, who could find himself in a personal midfield duel with Kaka. "It's a great experience to come over and play Orlando.

"They have got Kaka playing for them so it will be great to play against him and watch him.

him.
"But for us it's about fitness and sharpness and getting minutes under our belt. They are world-class players.
"If you don't get a buzz playing against players like Kaka, you are in the wrong game."

Albion reveal new game ticket prices

ALBION fans will pay £39 to watch the Premier League's big boys and £25 to see some games next season.

see some games next season.
Category A games will cost £39 for adults, £29 for seniors, £25 for under-21s and students, and £15 for juniors and disabled fans. Category B games start at £25 for adults, £20 for seniors and and £15 for adults.

£15 for children. Category A are Arsenal, Villa, Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United, Newcastle Utd, Stoke and Tottenham

Category B includes Bournemouth, Crystal Palace, Everton, Leicester, Norwich and Southampton.

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